

## APPOINTMENTS

24 pages of executive and senior positions

SPECIAL SECTION 3

## Why safety should be skin deep

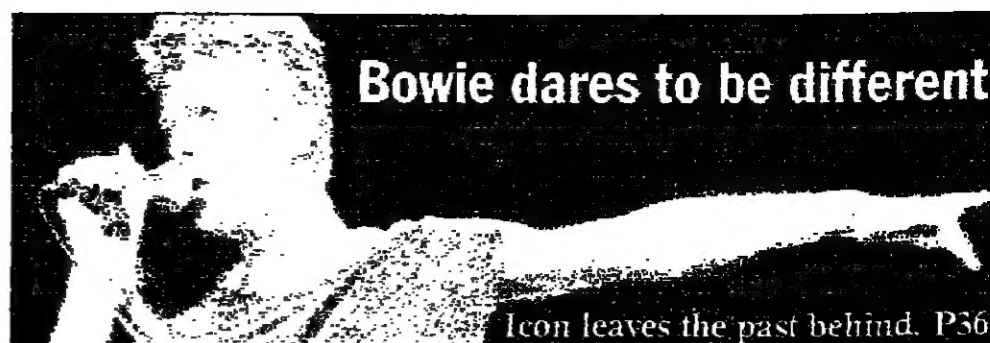
The risk factor in anti-ageing creams

DR STUTTAFFORD P18



## Bowie dares to be different

Icon leaves the past behind. P36



## Bitter clashes over Queen's speech

# Opening shots fired in 'dirty' election battle

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

### MAIN POINTS

- Education:**
  - Voucher scheme for nursery schools
  - Students to get subsidised private loans
  - New borrowing powers for grant-maintained schools
- Home affairs:**
  - Tighter asylum controls
  - M15 to fight organised crime
  - New duties for the defence in criminal cases
- Family:**
  - One-year wait for divorce
- Transport:**
  - Privately funded high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link
- Broadcasting:**
  - Newspaper companies to be allowed to own TV stations

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair traded insults and invective yesterday after the Government drew the battle lines for the general election with a legislative programme that heralded fierce political conflict on immigration, education and law and order.

MPs of all parties predicted a dirty run-in to the election after the two leaders reached a new level of bitterness in exchanges over the plan to crack down on bogus asylum seekers, one of 16 big Bills listed in the Queen's speech.

The tension was heightened by rising unemployment, falling high street sales, a declaration by the Tory MP Sir Julian Critchley that he would not vote Conservative next time, and a paint and flour attack on the Conservative chairman Brian Mawhinney.

After the ceremonial of the state opening, the parties immediately resumed their war for the centre ground, with a confident Mr Blair telling the Commons that "one nation Toryism" was dead and Mr Major countering that only the Tories could claim to be the one nation party.

Mr Major rejected Mr Blair's claims that his programme was driven by pressure from the Right, maintaining that it was a "commonsense, practical programme of traditional Conservative values".

As expected, the main measures announced were the asylum Bill, powers for M15 to switch to crime-fighting, new rules to give the prosecution a better chance of convicting criminals, fresh encouragement for grant-maintained schools, the introduction of vouchers for nursery education, a widening of the health ombudsman's powers to cover complaints about clinical judgment, and a Bill to ease the rules on cross-media ownership.

There will also be moves to give students the option of taking out loans with private sector lenders and to pave the way for a high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link. Along with the Budget on November 28, the package is intended to encourage busi-

ness, investment and skills training to make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe.

One of the most controversial measures on the Tory side will be the Bill reforming the divorce laws, although Mr Major moved to defuse the issue by promising his MPs a free vote.

Mr Blair described it as a "pathetic mouse of a Queen's speech, attacked the Government as 'tired, inept and incompetent' and demanded an immediate election. "They have been there too long, they have told too many lies, they have made too many mistakes, they have nothing to offer the future of Britain. It is time for them to go."

He said the speech was "utterly irrelevant to the interests of Britain. This is a party that has ceased to have any real vision or purpose in government at all. It is about the interests of the Tory party, cobbling together any old bric-a-brac of legislation that can keep the party in one piece because that can only be done by appeasing the right wing."

The Government was involved in a "tawdry, low-life, demeaning exercise in political tactics" which did nothing for the people of Britain.

But Mr Major said it was the right programme for the country, admitting also that it

would be a "litmus test" for Labour. He accused Mr Blair of spouting copper-plated nonsense and humbug based on cheap soundbites and no real policy. He attacked Mr Blair's "chameleon-like ability to change political colour, depending on the audience".

"The policies Labour advocate would squander our opportunities, by their readiness to increase spending and put up taxes, by the certainty that they would let inflation rip, by discouraging investment with more red tape. Policies like these do not add up to a credible programme of opposition, let alone of government. They add to the reason why Labour are unfit to govern."

The electioneering theme was maintained by Paddy Ashdown, who described the Queen's speech as a list of "lag end measures from a lag end government". It was "a cut and run programme designed to be ditched at any time".

Conservative sources later voiced irritation that Mr Blair had "sprung on" Mr Major a suggestion that the asylum Bill should go to a special Commons committee rather than be discussed on the floor of the Commons. They claimed it was an attempt to avoid difficult decisions in the spotlight of the Commons.

Mr Major said he would consider the idea but appeared cool on it.

The new programme also included Bills to reform the Territorial Army, rally the international chemical weapons convention, improve education and training in Scotland, allow housing association tenants to buy their homes, give disabled people the chance of buying community care services direct instead of relying on local councils.

If parliamentary time allows, Bills will be brought in to streamline procedures for less serious libel claims, introduce structured settlements for personal injury claims and reform land trust laws.

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Speech details, pages 10-12  
Peter Riddell, page 20  
Leading article, page 21



Dr Mawhinney covered in paint splashed by asylum Bill protesters

## Paint hurled at Tory chief

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

AN INQUIRY began last night into why police took 20 minutes to respond when Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, was pelted with flour and paint by protesters outside the House of Commons.

Dr Mawhinney was cross-

ing College Green opposite the Commons for a radio interview after the State Opening of Parliament when banner-waving demonstrators began hurling orange paint and flour.

Although dozens of police were on duty outside the Palace of Westminster 100 yards away, the attack on the former Northern Ireland minister, who had no personal

security protection, was apparently unnoticed.

The Cabinet minister was walking with his wife Betty and Alan Duncan, his parliamentary aide, to a makeshift BBC studio when the paint and flour was thrown as a protest at tighter immigration and asylum rules.

Dr Mawhinney's hair and dark suit were covered in paint and Mr Duncan called the police on a borrowed mobile telephone. When no officers arrived and the protesters tried to leave Mr Duncan grabbed one of the protesters and threatened to make a citizen's arrest.

One MP observed: "You'd have thought that Westminster on the day of the Queen's Speech was the one place you might find a policeman when you needed one."

Scotland Yard last night apologised and said Mr Duncan's 999 call had been misrouted. Three people were being questioned by police last night.



Mr Duncan attempts to make a citizen's arrest

## Pound falters as sales fall

Sterling fell to an all-time low on the trade-weighted index yesterday after announcements of a fall in retail sales and the first rise in unemployment since autumn 1993. Helped by pre-Budget jitters, the pound ended at \$2.6, down 0.7 on the day. Analysts said foreign exchanges were clearly expecting a cut in base rates. Page 25

## Critchley: I won't vote Tory

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

A SENIOR Tory backbencher embarrassed the Government yesterday by announcing that he will not be voting for the party at the next general election.

Sir Julian Critchley, who retired as MP for Aldershot at the election, blamed the "less well-educated, deeply prejudiced and chauvinist Tory Party" left by Margaret Thatcher for his disillusion.

Sir Julian said that he could not bring himself to vote for Christopher Gill, the right-wing MP for Ludlow, where he is planning to spend his retirement.

Sir Julian also said that the Tories were unlikely to win the next election and would face at least eight years in Opposition.

He said he would "sit on his hands" rather than vote for his fellow backbenchers, some of whom he described as, "an unattractive blend of English nationalists, radicals and pop-

ulists." But he denied that he had been won over by new Labour party and said: "Nothing on earth would persuade me to vote for the Liberal Democrats."

A Tory MP for 36 years, he has always been on the extreme left of the party, was a Labour supporter in his teens and admits that he joined the



Sir Julian: party will lose next election

## 'Pay first' order in French hospitals

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND HARVEY ELLIOT

FOREIGNERS undergoing hospital treatment in France will have to pay in advance as part of a drastic overhaul of the country's welfare system.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, announced yesterday that only in emergencies would non-resident foreigners receive hospital treatment without paying first. The rule is one of a host of new measures intended to reduce France's social security deficit.

Under EU rules, Britons and others from member countries must pay for doctors' visits in France and then apply for reimbursement. The system has now been extended to hospital treatment, other than emergencies, including out-patient care.

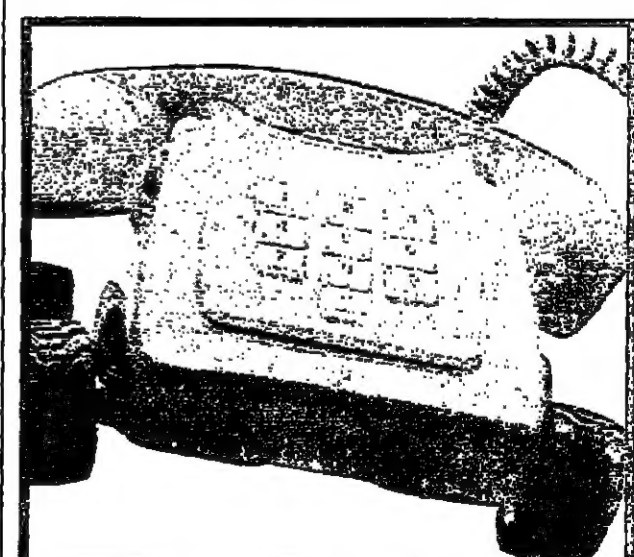
Foreigners living in France, however, can apply to be registered as taxpayers and receive free treatment. Medi-

cal charges in France are very similar to those for private care in Britain. They range from about £750 to more than £2,000 per day.

Travel insurance does provide full cover, but it is estimated that under half the people making brief visits to France bother to take out such cover.

The new rule is principally aimed at foreigners who travel to France for pre-planned hospital care and will not affect tourists who require unexpected hospital treatment, since they would be considered emergencies, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said. However, the ruling may affect British patients sent to France for treatment, or businessmen in France for extended periods.

Welfare reform, page 17



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TV & RADIO .....46, 47  
WEATHER .....24  
CROSSWORDS .....24, 48

LETTERS .....21  
OBITUARIES .....23  
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 20

ARTS .....35-37  
CHESS & BRIDGE .....42  
COURT & SOCIAL .....22

TRAVEL NEWS .....40, 41  
BOOKS .....38, 39  
LAW REPORT .....34



# New session, new Black Rod, same old story

Yesterday paint was thrown over Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman. It can only improve him. Afterwards he looked happier than we have ever seen him. He had been recognised at last!

Your sketchwriter watched the Queen's Speech on television. The grey plastic set seemed a bland frame for such visual richness, so I adorned mine with a piece of tinsel and a strip of synthetic fur from the detached collar of an old anorak. Readers may like to try this. Her Majesty looked more comfortable. The ceremonials

might be improved, henceforth, by the ritual daubing of the party chairman in paint before the Queen arrives.

Waiting in the Commons had been Dennis Skinner. Before the Queen's Speech begins, Black Rod, a chap in tight-fitting a billiard cue, marches in to summon MPs. Last year, Sir Richard Thomas, as Black Rod, yesterday General Sir Edward Jones took his place.

"New Labour," growled Dennis, "new Black Rod." After lunch, debate commenced. By tradition one senior and one junior government backbencher propose



**MATTHEW PARRIS**

POLITICAL SKETCH

and second the motion. Douglas Hurd and Gyles Brandreth (Chester) were given the honour. At first Douglas Hurd looked awkward. For so long the statesman defending sticky wickets abroad, the requirement simply to offer a charming description of his own constituency (Winney) seemed to discomfort him. He tried a poetic line or two: "On a spring evening,"

burbled the white-haired luminary, "when daffodils are bright against the grey stone." Alarmed, one began to miss Mr Hurd's more familiar style — on Bosnia, for instance. Fortunately he quit the daffodils pretty fast.

And this newest backbencher soon found his old stride. Who can better his depiction of the Commons's loss of touch with voters? Members of Parliament were

"playing out the old play." But "beyond the footlights, half the audience has walked away, and the other half are watching with mounting irritation."

"Political success," said Hurd, "may well go to those who sound least like politicians." Everyone murmured "Hear, hear." He made a dignified plea for less juvenile debate — what he called "empty noise and phoney warfare." Again, everyone murmured "Hear, hear."

And within twenty minutes they were all at it. But first a pleasant distraction. After a stilled start,

Gyles Brandreth gave one of the best junior supporting speeches made in recent years. His wife, he told MPs, had heard him described on local radio as "an expert on the marriage Act". This had surprised her. "She nearly fell out of her bunk."

A sparkling speech deserved sparkling heckling — and Brandreth got it. "Quite simply," began this near-miss winner of one of Britain's most marginal seats, "Chester is the best place in the world. Two thousand years of matchless history..."

"And a one thousand majority," shouted Joe Ashton

(Lab. Bassetlaw). "Actually it's 1,101," said Brandreth.

But good humour evaporated when the big boys got up. Tony Blair made an undignified, nose-thumbing speech. John Major responded with a plea for "an end to this silly name-calling". He then, called Blair's speech "copper-plated nonsense" and his opinions "total ballyhoo". And sucks to you too.

New Labour, a relaunched Prime Minister, a new Black Rod, a new session...

...and there they go again. Douglas Hurd watched sadly, thinking perhaps of the Winney daffodils.

If the poll lead is to be translated into votes, the 'gender gap' may prove critical

## Labour's best hope is to convince older women

WOMEN in Britain have been consistently more likely than men to vote Conservative, probably ever since they got the vote in 1918. It has on occasion made the difference between the Tories winning or losing. At the 1992 election, if women (a ten-point Tory lead) had voted as men did (a four-point Tory lead), it would have resulted in a hung Parliament, and Neil Kinnock would almost certainly have become Prime Minister.

Labour has noticed. In the 1987 election, the Kinnock campaign team aimed at young women, and won them over, with more 18 to 24-year-old women voting Labour than Tory. This held in 1992, with a Labour lead of 13 percentage points among 18 to 24-year-old women compared with a 5-point Labour lead among men of the same age, and a ten-point lead among women overall.

In a recent aggregate analysis for *The Times* involving more than 17,000 adults, Labour had a 36-point lead among men, compared with a 28-point lead among women, a "gender gap" of 8 per cent. Yet among 18 to 24-year-olds, the "gender gap" was only three points: among the 25 to 34-year-olds just one point; but among 35 to 54-year-olds (a third of the electorate), an 11-point gap; and among the

*The Opposition's chances of forming the next government hang on targeting women who usually vote Conservative, says Robert Worcester of MORI*

over 55s — also at least a third of all voters — the gap is ten points (see graph).

When MORI asked people to name the most important issues facing the country in last month's survey for *The Times*, unemployment was the clear leader among men, named by 54 per cent, with the NHS second on 42 per cent; but among women the issues scored almost equally, 48 per cent compared to 47 per cent.

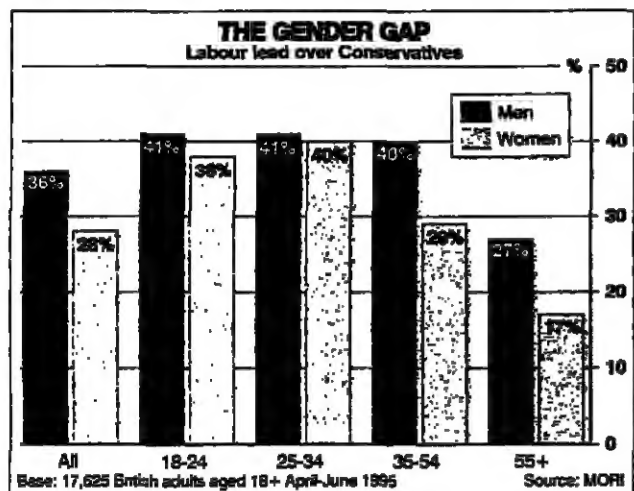
Women were also significantly more likely than men to mention education and housing, but much less likely to cite the economic situation or tax. In July, MORI asked which issues would be very important in determining how people voted at the next election, and which party had the best policy on each: healthcare was the most frequent choice of both men and women, but while 61 per cent of men

thought Labour had the best policy, only 52 per cent of women did — many more women than men (29 per cent against 18 per cent) felt they didn't know which party had the best healthcare policies, a clear communications opportunity for Labour.

Women also view the parties slightly differently from men. In our questions last month to measure party image, almost as many women thought Labour would "promise anything to win votes" (33 per cent) as agreed the party "understands the problems facing Britain" (34 per cent) or is "concerned about the people in real need" (36 per cent); among men the positive attributes have a more comfortable lead.

Labour's opinion poll lead at present is huge, but nobody seriously believes Labour can gain such a lead at the next election. Consequently, the party needs to bear in mind that its target among middle-aged and older women is not to win over the remainder, but to hold on to the support of as many as possible of those who have already switched.

If the gender gap is to be broken down, it is not likely to be by a further swing among older women, but it may be by persuading fewer of them to swing back to the Tories than other groups.



Women have consistently been more likely than men to vote Conservative

## Middle England voices her sceptical support

By JOHN YOUNG

WOMEN'S organisations greeted the news that the Labour Party was seeking to enlist the support of more women voters yesterday with a mixture of delight and scepticism.

The delight was that their concerns were at last being taken seriously, the scepticism that politicians were all the same under the skin and electoral promises all too quickly forgotten.

Tessa Jowell, the party's spokesperson on women, has been charged with broadening its appeal to include the middle-aged women of middle England, traditionally assumed to be the bedrock of Conservative support in rural constituencies.

Elizabeth Southey, chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, said she welcomed the opportunity to discuss its concerns with any political party at national or local level.

Among the federation's main concerns were the fragmentation and decline of services in rural areas, the closure of post offices, and poor access to health care in rural areas. It also wanted more support for carers in rural communities, a better deal on pensions for women, and more opportunities for adult learning.

"We are encouraged and hopeful that the Labour Par-

ty's comments may result in our campaigns gaining the prominence they truly deserve, from all political corners," she said. "We would like to see our campaigning issues addressed by all political parties, as we feel they are integral to the improvement of society as a whole."

Jean Clark, president of the National Council of Women, gave a warning against type-casting the members of Women's Institutes and Townswomen's Guilds as different from their sisters on urban housing estates; many of their concerns were identical.

The council, an umbrella group embracing such diverse bodies as the Mothers' Union, the Child Poverty Action Group and the Family Plan-

ning Association, was strictly non-party political, she said. "No matter who's in power, we are asking for the same things."

Health, education and family welfare were at the top of its list of concerns. Older women were a neglected segment of society, and the council had been instrumental in establishing the Women's Health and Screening Delegation to promote screening for those over the age of 65.

It was also important that women were given more choice over whether to go out to work or to stay at home to raise a family, Ms Clark said. At present they were made to feel guilty whichever they did, either for putting their children into care during the day, or for not contributing to the family income.

On education, she would like to see politicians devote more attention to expanding nursery education for the under-fives and to enabling young people to be taught how to be good parents.

Denise Carr, of the National Alliance of Women's Organisations, said she would welcome the Labour initiative as a positive step if all political parties were to take the women's vote more seriously. But she was concerned by the use of the term "women's issues", which carried overtones of condescension and implied that men need not and should not be concerned with them.



Jowell: trying to attract new Labour voters

## Dublin predicts 'imminent' breakthrough on arms

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DUBLIN raised hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the Northern Ireland peace process last night after a letter from John Major brought Britain and Ireland closer together on the issue of decommissioning weapons.

The letter from Mr Major to John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, was welcomed by officials in Ireland as a "significant move forward" in breaking the deadlock between the two countries over the surrender of arms.

Irish sources suggested agreement could be reached "within days" over the start of the "twin-track" approach aimed at establishing an international commission to oversee the destruction of paramilitary weapons while conducting preparatory talks with the various parties.

Disagreements over the timing and details of the twin-

track approach caused deep friction between the two governments in September, when a proposed summit meeting between the two leaders was called off at the last minute because Dublin backed down in the face of Sinn Féin pressure.

The two leaders are expected to be in regular contact over the coming days, although Downing Street officials were not prepared to say when agreement might be reached.

However, they said that the letter was "constructive and forward-looking". The thawing in relations comes days after Mr Bruton effectively accused Britain of dragging its feet, dismissing London's objections to Sinn Féin joining talks as "comparatively minor" in historical terms.

The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday that Sinn Féin had to denounce punishment beatings and must underpin its commitment to peace by ending "threats and thuggery".

Mr Major said that almost every day brought a fresh atrocity, with 250 punishment beatings since the ceasefire. The Rev Martin Smyth, the Grand Master of the Orange Order in Ireland, vowed yesterday to stay on after 1,500 Orangemen called for his resignation at a rally in Belfast. Mr Smyth, 64, who is also the Ulster Unionist MP for South Belfast, said he was not surprised by the demand and added that it was up to the organisation's Grand Lodge to decide on his future.

He said: "I think we are living in a modern world where the spirit of delusion takes over some folk who don't think through what they are doing."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Water firms fail charter mark test

Applications from six water companies for the Prime Minister's charter mark for good public service were rejected last night. The move is a rebuke by the Government for the industry's poor recent performance.

Applicants included Yorkshire Water, which is attempting to ration supplies to thousands of households in the Halifax and Bradford areas. The company learnt last night that it will not be on the list when John Major hands out the charter marks at a ceremony in London on December 4. A spokesman said the company had applied for the award before the drought.

Others whose applications were rejected include Anglian, Severn Trent and Wessex, who each received charter marks in 1992. Their awards were up for renewal but the companies have been told to reapply next year.

## Tube drivers accept offer

The threat of further travel chaos in London was averted yesterday when the RMT Tube drivers' union settled its five-month dispute with London Underground. After weeks of tortuous negotiations, the union accepted a 3 per cent pay offer but won minor improvements on terms of employment. The dispute was one of the longest in the Underground's history and led to three one-day strikes, which crippled much of the network. Ann Burfitt, director of human resources at London Underground, said:

"In such disputes, there are no winners. Now we need to ensure we do everything possible to prevent any recurrence."

## Carey blames weak clergy

Weak and ineffective ministers are to blame when congregations drop, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said last night. Calling for better training and less time-consuming administrative duties for clergy and lay leaders, he said: "Where there is visionary leadership, new Christians are made and churches grow. Where there is weak, ineffective ministry, congregations dwindle." Delivering the William Barclay lecture at Renfield St Stephen's church, Glasgow, he said the clergy were playing too much of a therapeutic role for people with problems, and were not geared enough towards leadership and mission. Bible "outdated", page 6

## Prison protest

Prison officers armed with batons and shields moved into a top-security jail yesterday when 250 inmates protested over a new incentive scheme. Prisoners in two wings at Full Sutton jail near York went on strike by refusing to work after two days of mounting tension over a system under which privileges must be earned.

## Heseltine surgery

Michael Heseltine was recuperating in a private clinic in London last night after a successful operation to remove a kidney stone. The Deputy Prime Minister will remain at the hospital until later in the week. He was said to be "in good heart and well" on the road to recovery. He intended to return to work on Monday.

## Skip exercise

Teenage girls should skip 50 times a day to avoid brittle bones in later life, according to Dr Joan Basseby from the department of physiology and pharmacology at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. One in four women will sustain a fracture after menopause as a result of osteoporosis. Weight-bearing exercise can prevent it.

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FILM of the hour was *Princess Diana*, a biopic of the late Princess of Wales, which was shown in a safe house by the British Film Institute. The film, directed by Charles Ferguson, was a tribute to the late Princess. It was shown in a safe house because of the threat of terrorism. The film was shown in a safe house because of the threat of terrorism. The film was shown in a safe house because of the threat of terrorism.

A COURT in London has ruled that the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) must pay compensation to a woman who claimed that the corporation's coverage of the 1992 election was biased. The court ruled that the BBC's coverage was biased in favour of the Conservative Party. The court ordered the BBC to pay compensation to the woman. The court ordered the BBC to pay compensation to the woman.



THE retail trade condemned yesterday's ruling as an attack on tradition. Brian Godfrey's business, which was in the grocery trade for 30 years, "believe such a decision is a matter for serious public consideration."



## Corporation holds court in global auction

# Princess takes the air as Panorama man vanishes

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

FILM of the hour-long *Panorama* interview with the Princess of Wales is being kept in a safe house by the BBC amid unprecedented security. Martin Bashir, the reporter who conducted the interview, has gone into hiding.

Last night even Mr Bashir's pregnant wife said that she did not know where her husband was staying. "I wish I did," Deborah Bashir, a district nurse, said.

Only six people at the BBC, including John Birt, the Director-General, knew about the exclusive interview with the Princess, which was filmed on Sunday, November 5, in her private apartments at Kensington Palace. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were in New Zealand for the Commonwealth Conference.

In keeping with BBC policy Marmaduke Hussey, the chairman of the governors, was not informed in advance. He was told on Tuesday morning at the same time the programme was announced by the BBC. Even Patrick Jephson, the Princess's private secretary, was kept in the dark about the interview, which has caused dismay at Buckingham Palace. International rights are now up for auction.

The interview was arranged by an unnamed intermediary who is a close friend of the



Bashir went into hiding on Tuesday

Princess. The idea was mooted in the summer but she was plagued by doubts. The hostile publicity generated by her friendship with Will Carling, the England rugby star, and the increasingly public liaison of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles finally convinced her to go ahead with the public relations counterblast to the Jonathan Dimbleby interview with the Prince of Wales in which he confessed his adultery.

*Panorama* was sounded out by the intermediary because it was felt the programme would give the Princess intellectual

credibility. "Breakfast television would have seemed tacky," said one source.

Mr Bashir, who had never met the Princess before, saw her three times at Kensington Palace over a number of weeks to discuss the format. They struck up a good rapport.

But the Princess made clear that the project would be cancelled if there were any leaks. An added level of security was provided by Mr Bashir being paid through his newly formed company, Panoramic Productions.

The Princess is understood to have consulted a "war council" of her closest and most trusted advisers, all of whom have experience of the media. They included Clive James, the broadcaster who was photographed lunching with her after the Dimbleby interview, and Earl Spencer, her brother.

There was continuing amazement in royal circles yesterday that the interview could have taken place under the noses of so many royal courtiers. "Elaborate arrangements must have been made to keep that lot under wraps," said one royal official.

Mr Bashir, a cameraman and a soundman, were the only three present during the filming. They are understood to have used compact filming equipment which could be smuggled into the Palace without attracting any attention.

Mr Bashir has not been seen at his three-bedroom terraced home in Earlsfield, south London, since Tuesday morning. Mrs Bashir said: "I am not allowed to know where he is. I last spoke to him Monday night. Martin hasn't told me a thing, he wasn't allowed to."

Mrs Bashir, whose children are Samuel, 7, and Phoebe, 4, added: "I knew about the interview but I don't know what is in it. All I know is that it's good." Mr Bashir thinks so too, his wife added. "He is very happy. He has done a good job."

Mr Bashir joined *Panorama* three years ago. He began his journalistic career as a freelance on the *Sunday Times* sports desk, and has worked at ITN and on BBC regional TV in London.

*Panorama* is the longest-running current affairs programme on British television, and started in 1953. A spokeswoman predicted an audience of 15 million for the interview, three times the usual figure.

BBC Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, said yesterday that it had been inundated with calls from around the world. All the main American networks are competing in the "auction" for exclusive US rights.

Libby Purves, page 20  
Leading article and  
Letters, page 21



The Princess leaving her gym in Chelsea yesterday

## Teenager who died sold drugs to friends

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A MOTHER told an inquest last night of her disbelief when she heard her 17-year-old son had been dealing in drugs before his death. Daniel Ashton died in hospital 12 hours after taking a cocktail of Ecstasy and amphetamines at a Blackpool nightclub.

The inquest at Blackpool heard how the popular teenager had sold amphetamine "wraps" for between £5 and £10 each to his friends. Heather Ashton said: "I never had the slightest idea he was in any way involved in drugs."

Student witnesses told how Daniel, an A-level student at the town's sixth-form college, had sold amphetamines to students, including his girlfriend Vanessa Watson, and Andrew Aspdon, both 16.

All three needed emergency hospital treatment after taking drugs on September 28 at the Palace nightclub. Daniel died 12 hours later.

A verdict that Ashton died from the abuse of non-dependent drugs was recorded.

Essex Police investigating drug dealers who supplied Leah Bens, 18, with an Ecstasy tablet were last night interviewing six people. Leah was still critically ill.

The Government is to impose greater controls on raves in Scotland in an attempt to cut the number of Ecstasy deaths. A Bill introducing "chill out" areas, free drinking water and proper stewarding is to be introduced.

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## Greengrocer loses court battle to keep pavement display

BY IAN MURRAY

A GREENGROCER pleaded in vain before the High Court yesterday to keep the centuries-old tradition of a display of fruit and vegetables on the pavement outside his shop.

Unable to afford a barrister to argue his case, Brian Godfrey, 54, won the sympathy of the judge, Mr Justice Hadden, but lost the legal argument to Derbyshire County Council. The ruling opens the way for every council to order a trader to remove goods displayed outside a shop.

Mr Godfrey told the court that loss of his pavement display could mean the failure of his business in Ilkeston, which he bought in 1988 with the redundancy money he received after the closure of the colliery where he worked.

He said his takings had fallen by 74 per cent since 1992 because two car parks had been closed, a bypass had been built and the town centre had been pedestrianised. His display was essential to attract customers.

"It has always been traditional for greengrocers to have goods displayed outside," he said. "Elderly customers prefer to be able to choose their fruit outside."

He denied council claims that the 3ft-wide display was dangerous. There was still



Godfrey won sympathy of the judge for his plight

room on the pavement for a double baby carriage to pass. More than 700 people had signed a petition supporting him, and a partially sighted customer had written to the court asking for the display to remain. "I have been brought up all my life to be mindful of other people and would not do anything to harm anyone."

His arguments had persuaded magistrates in Ilkeston, who ruled in January that the display was an obstruction but did not constitute a nuisance. They allowed him to keep it, but the county council appealed to the High Court.

The judge said that the justices had misinterpreted the law, which clearly gave the public the right to walk on the full width of the pavement. "It seems to me the situation is that 'live and let live' works very well for a long time and people get away with obstructing the highway. But if a fuss is made and brought before a court, the court has to decide what the law is."

He said that, regretfully, he had to instruct the magistrates to reverse their decision. "I come to that conclusion with some sadness because it is clear that Mr Godfrey is a hard-working man who, as soon as he was made redundant, has put his hand to a useful further career which has been dogged with misfortune."

Mr Godfrey had told him of the possible consequences for his business, but "I have to decide on the fact of what the law is. I regret that decision and hope that what he fears does not come to pass."

Derbyshire waived its right to claim costs from Mr Godfrey. "That is very proper," the judge told Mr Godfrey. "Financially you are better off than you might have been."

After the case Mr Godfrey rang his wife to tell her to remove the display outside their shop. "The law is the law and I am a law-abiding man," he said.

Joe Murphy, chairman of the county council's highways and transport committee, welcomed the decision. "The council is of the opinion that pavements are for people and that they should be kept clear of all obstructions for the benefit of pedestrians."

"If we had made an exception for Mr Godfrey a precedent could have been set which could have affected the rights of pavement users throughout the country."



Brian Godfrey's business, which he now fears will fail

## Traders blame pettiness for destroying tradition

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE retail trade condemned yesterday's ruling as an attack on tradition. Brian Waterhouse, director-general of the National Grocers' Benevolent Fund, said that, if the decision were applied to all grocers, the face of "open all hours" stores would be changed for ever.

"A display outside a shop is part and parcel of the British approach to selling groceries," said Mr Waterhouse, who was in the grocery trade for 50 years. "I believe such displays are a matter for sense and public consideration."

The newsgate next door to

Brian Godfrey's greengrocery accused Derbyshire County Council of pettiness against an honest shopkeeper. "It is bureaucracy gone mad," Robin Butler, of John's News, said. "He's not the only shopkeeper who does it here. It has been an accepted thing for years."

"We have boards outside advertising the National Lottery and the local papers. If they are going to enforce this to the letter, I suppose they will have to go too."

Sheila Parry, manager of Stacey's Bakery on the same street, said: "The council are

the real fools here. They say they want to inject new life into Ilkeston and then they do something like this."

Peter Lynch, a borough councillor, said: "The ironic thing is that, if Brian's shop was only 30 yards further up the road in the pedestrianised area, his type of stall would be encouraged by the county council."

Howard Cooper, 68, who runs a general store and newsagent, said: "There is strong feeling behind Brian here. We all signed a petition for him and will support him whatever he does now."

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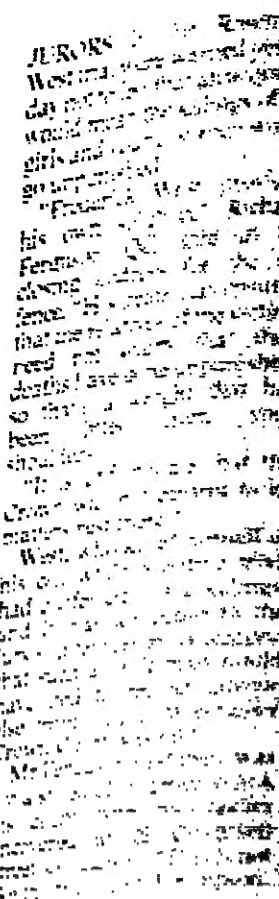
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'Acquit her because there is no evidence. The Crown has failed to prove her guilt'

## West's suicide avenged killings, QC tells jurors

By RICHARD DUCE

JURORS in the Rosemary West trial were warned yesterday not to feel that an acquittal would mean the killings of ten girls and young women would go unpunished.

"Frederick West provided his own solution," Richard Ferguson, QC, said in his closing address for the defence. "His death has ensured that the relatives of the victims need not worry that their deaths have gone unpunished, so that's a weight that has been lifted from your shoulders."

"It is unfortunate that the Crown was not content to let matters rest there."

West, who killed himself in his cell while awaiting trial, had confessed to the killings, and it was an insult to the jury's intelligence to suggest that such an evil man would have lied to protect anyone else from blame. Winchester Crown Court was told.

Mr Ferguson said there was not a shred of evidence to link his client with the bodies uncovered at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. "This is not like the trial of O. J. Simpson.

There are no bloody fingerprints here, no gloves, no DNA evidence. You are not being asked by us to acquit in the teeth of the evidence. You are being asked to acquit because there is no evidence.

"All that you have is conjecture, suspicion and perhaps prejudice. What is required from each of you is a clear head, cool judgment and, at the end of the day, a clear conscience."

The jury, he said, had heard the voice of Frederick West. "If what he told you was the truth, then the defendant should be acquitted, not because you like or don't like her, not because you believe her, but because the Crown has failed to prove her guilt."

Mr Ferguson said he accepted and agreed that West was "a man devoid of compassion, consumed with sexual lust, a sadistic killer, someone who had opted out of the human race and, you may think, someone who was the very epitome of evil. But the Crown would say to you that man was the sort of man who was capable and who did take the



Ferguson completed his summing up

blame as some part of an agreement between himself and his wife. Even to state that, you may think, shows the sheer improbability of such a proposition.

"Fred West was not the stuff of which martyrs are made. The argument that Fred West would give up his life in order to protect someone else and look after his family is an insult to your intelligence. Short of a desire for martyrdom, the vast majority of

human beings do not confess to crimes they have not committed and willingly embrace the prospect of life in prison."

The jury had seen no evidence of devotion to family, either his first or second family, "which would drive Fred West to take the rap to enable Rosemary West to look after the younger children."

He said that Janet Leach — a prosecution witness who said that West admitted his confessions were not the full story — was "an unmitigated disaster" for the prosecution. He went on: "She told lies to the police, she told lies to you and, you may think, she was still prepared to bluff it out right up until she was confronted with the information from the newspaper group."

Mr Ferguson said the jury might well feel morally superior about Mrs West's "unconventional sex life" after a number of witnesses claimed she had abused them at her home in Gloucester. "It proves so far as they were concerned that Rosemary West was a cruel sexual assailant, and for that she stands trial either in this world or in the hereafter, and if found guilty should be

punished. Does that prove that she's guilty of any one of these murders?

"The real issue is not whether Mrs Rosemary West had an unconventional sexual life, but whether the Crown has proved she is guilty of murder. At the end of the day, you can never be sure what happened in this case."

There was no evidence to link Rosemary West with the murders, Mr Ferguson told the jury. "On the one hand, siren voices are urging you to convict because Rosemary West is an evil woman. On the other hand, you have your consciences and you have your oath that you will base your verdicts on the evidence in this court."

It was for the jury to decide whether witnesses who claimed that they were abused at the hands of Mrs West had exaggerated their versions of events because they had sold their stories to newspapers.

Mr Justice Mantell will begin his summing up today. He has told the jurors that they will probably be asked to retire on Monday to consider their verdicts and should bring an overnight bag.



Rosemary West in her twenties: her unconventional sex life was raised in court



Cunningham: absent

### Owner of animal cemetery convicted

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE owner of a pet cemetery who promised bereaved animal lovers ornate coffins but buried their pets in binliners and rags is facing arrest after being convicted of fraud.

Freda Cunningham, who ran the Pet Care Crematorium on her farm at Weston upon Trent, Derbyshire, was yesterday convicted on seven counts of deception involving a total of £960.

The court was told that Cunningham had charged owners up to £185 to bury their pets. When she ran into financial difficulties and part of her land was repossessed owners who came to exhume their pets found the remains were not in the coffins in deep graves as they had been promised. In some cases the animals' remains were found only inches below the ground.

Mrs Cunningham was not in court to hear the guilty verdicts. She had sent a sick note saying that she was suffering from vertigo brought on by the stress of the trial.

After the verdicts the court was told Cunningham had been convicted of deception offences three times since 1970.

Judge Morrison, adjourning sentence, issued a warrant for her arrest and said: "She is a dishonest woman and has preyed on the unhappiness of people who in their distress trusted her. Although the offences do not involve great sums of money, they are despicable. Not one glimmer of remorse or apology has been offered."

### Children walk out in meals protest

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY of 14 was arrested for an alleged breach of the peace after almost 80 pupils walked out of their school canteen in a protest over the food. They occupied a yard for two hours.

The boy was detained when pupils pulled down part of a metal fence at Wellfield Comprehensive in Wingate, Co Durham. He was later released without charge after a lecture about his conduct.

Complaints about cold food and limited choice had been developing among the 1,150 pupils for several weeks. Tuesday's menu, which led to the walkout, included pizza, burgers, sausages and chips. Pudding was apple crumble and custard.

One 16-year-old said yesterday: "Dinners used to be nice, but now everyone dreads walking into the canteen. It has been going on for months and we can't take cold food anymore. We have complained, but nothing gets done. We want proper food and hot puddings."

A county council spokesman said: "There is a problem with meals not being as hot as they could be, but it is a matter we are trying to address."

#### CORRECTIONS

Simon Jenkins's article on the Prison Service, "Another fine mess of porridge" (October 18), quoted a passage from the Learmont report concerning the idiosyncrasies of the Prison Service. The Organisation Consulting Partnership, referred to in the article, point out that they had no hand in the development of the "idiosyncrasies" criticised in the Learmont report and were in fact engaged to support a streamlining of the Headquarters organisation. They also refute the suggestion, as to which there is no evidence, that they did any disservice to Mr Lewis.

□ The telephone number given on page 2 of yesterday's Interface section for the Mori/Motorola survey should have been 01753 575555.

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## Jobless programmer spread havoc with hacker's manual

## Hi-tech vandal jailed for virus that wrecked computer files

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER programmer who called himself the Black Baron was jailed for 18 months yesterday after he admitted planting viruses that caused damage costing hundreds of thousands of pounds. He is the first to have been prosecuted for this type of offence.

Christopher Pile, 26, an unemployed computer programmer from Plymouth, gave the names Pathogen and Queeg to the computer viruses he invented, from the television comedy *Red Dwarf*. He also designed a device that he called Smeg, another name from the programme, which made the viruses more difficult to find.

Pile, described in court as a mad boffin, created a training manual to help other virus writers to use Smeg, which is now available worldwide. It was found in America and Northern Ireland where it was being used by criminals. Exeter Crown Court was told.

Recorder Jeremy Griggs said the damage caused by Pile could run into millions of pounds. He said: "Those who seek to wreak mindless havoc on one of the vital tools of our

age cannot expect lenient treatment."

He added that what Pile had designed would constitute a threat to the foreseeable future: the evidence had confirmed that a "Pandora's Box" had been opened and the encryption engine, Smeg, could not be reined back now it had been released.

Pile, a man with no academic qualifications but a skilled computer programmer, used a basic machine typical of that sold on the high street to write the two viruses. In contravention of the Computer Misuse Act of 1990.

The court was told that Smeg was the most sinister factor of the Pathogen and Queeg viruses, and an innocent-looking programme could contain the virus in disguise. It was a new type of encryption engine, which meant normal anti-virus programmes did not recognise it or know where to find it.

Pathogen, a virus capable of disrupting or destroying programmes, would cause a quote from *Red Dwarf* to appear on computer screens: "Smoke me a kipper, I'll be back for

Richard Pile, unqualified but a skilled programmer inspired by *Red Dwarf*

breakfast. Unfortunately some of your data won't."

The judge said he could not accept that Pile was naive and he must have known the viruses would cause significant problems to computer users.

Pile pleaded guilty to five offences of unauthorised access to computers to facilitate crime, and five of unauthorised modification of computer material between 1993 and April 1994. He also admitted a charge of inciting others to spread viruses.

Ali Rafiqi, for Pile, said his client was a sad recluse who

had worked alone on the offences. There was no financial motive or gain involved. He was desperate to do something with his life.

"In a way, he is the mad boffin creating an instrument for his own purposes, not having stopped to consider the full implications of where it was going to go," he said.

After Pile's arrest police went to a house in Belfast where they found a version of Smeg on a computer bulletin board called *Illegal*, the Unstoppable Crime Machine.

Even before they were activated the viruses caused massive damage and found their way into at least two big computer companies. Microprose, an international computer firm, estimated it lost up to £500,000 of business and used 480 staff hours checking more than a million files, while the computer firm Apricot had to shut down and check many of its machines. It found 22 out of 60 machines had the pathogen virus, the court was told.

The prosecution said that Pile released them in a calculated attempt to obtain notoriety for himself as the Black Baron.

## Biblical morality is out of touch today, says bishop

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Anglican Church in Scotland has rejected calls for a return to biblical morality, saying that the moral code outlined in the Bible is out of date, chauvinistic and unable to answer the moral questions of the present generation.

The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said: "The Bible is still a useful guide but we have to recognise that it is a creature of its time. This is particularly true of its moral systems."

"The morality of the Bible is time-conditioned, male-centred and patriarchal. We are forced, as rational creatures seeking human well-being, to find appropriate moral rules for our own culture that reflect our own needs, knowledge and understanding."

He said in a lecture at Strathclyde University on Tuesday night that a timeless moral code based on the Old Testament was "problematic". Every society needed a moral system, but it changed from culture to culture. "These systems are arbitrary," he said, adding that "moralising is one of the least attractive of human characteristics".

The bishop made headlines in May when he called on the Church to be more tolerant and understanding of adultery, saying that God had given human beings promiscuous genes.

In his speech to the university, entitled *Is God a Fundamentalist?*, he said that changes in the status of women made it "particularly difficult for us, living in a very

different social system, with very different values and aspirations, to read what scripture says about the relations between men and women with any kind of authenticity. The thing to note here is that the community of faith, in any age, seems to accept most of the moral assumptions of the day and operates within them."

He said that modern society faced moral challenges unthinkable to previous generations. Contraception had totally altered human attitudes to sex. "Sex that is theoretically free from the consequences of pregnancy will, in practice, be thought of very differently from sex that almost invariably led to it."

"It is important to recognise that the moral life, which is fundamental to a healthy society and an ordered community, has more to do with our relationships with each other rather than our relationship with God." He added: "Scripture is studded with moral aphorisms and axioms that we

can use to stimulate our thinking, without expecting them to dictate to us how we should live or what we should do in our highly complex, scientific culture at the end of the second millennium."

His speech attracted criticism from Christian fundamentalists. The Rev Alex MacDonald, of the Free Church of Scotland, said: "The bishop seems to deny moral absolutes. But if morality is absolutely relative, how can we say anything is wrong — murder, child abuse, oppression?"

Professor James Whyte, a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, said that there was a small but growing number of people keen to stick to the certainty of scripture.

However, Father Tom Connolly, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, said that he largely agreed with the bishop's argument, saying that the Catholic Church believed morality was a combination of scripture and tradition.



Bishop Holloway: described need to find moral rules

## Senior churchman faces six sex assault charges

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ONE of Scotland's leading fundamentalist churchmen, Professor Donald Macleod of the Free Church of Scotland, was ordered yesterday to appear in court later this month on six charges of sexual assault involving five women.

The charges at Edinburgh Sheriff Court allege that Professor Macleod, 54, who lectures in systematic theology at the Free Church College, Edinburgh, carried out the assaults between July 1985 and June 1993.

Professor Macleod, married with three grown-up sons, is alleged to have put his arms around four of the women and

kissed them or attempted to kiss them. One charge alleges that he unbuckled a woman's blouse and fondled her breasts as well as lifting her skirt and touching her.

Four of the incidents are alleged to have taken place at the Free Church College on The Mound and the other two at his home in Edinburgh and in a parked car.

Professor Macleod was not in court yesterday. Pam Watson, the deputy-fiscal, asked Sheriff James Farrell to adjourn the case without plea until November 29, when Professor Macleod will have to appear in person or send a

solicitor to represent him. The Free Church of Scotland, known as "The Wee Frees", was formed in 1900 after half a century of schisms within the Church of Scotland. It is regarded as one of the last strongholds of traditional puritanism and sabbatarianism. Women are required to keep their heads covered in church and play no active part in services.

The Free Church has 19,000 regular churchgoers, of whom 6,000 are full church members. It is quite separate from the Free Presbyterian Church, known as the "Wee Wee Frees", formed in 1893.

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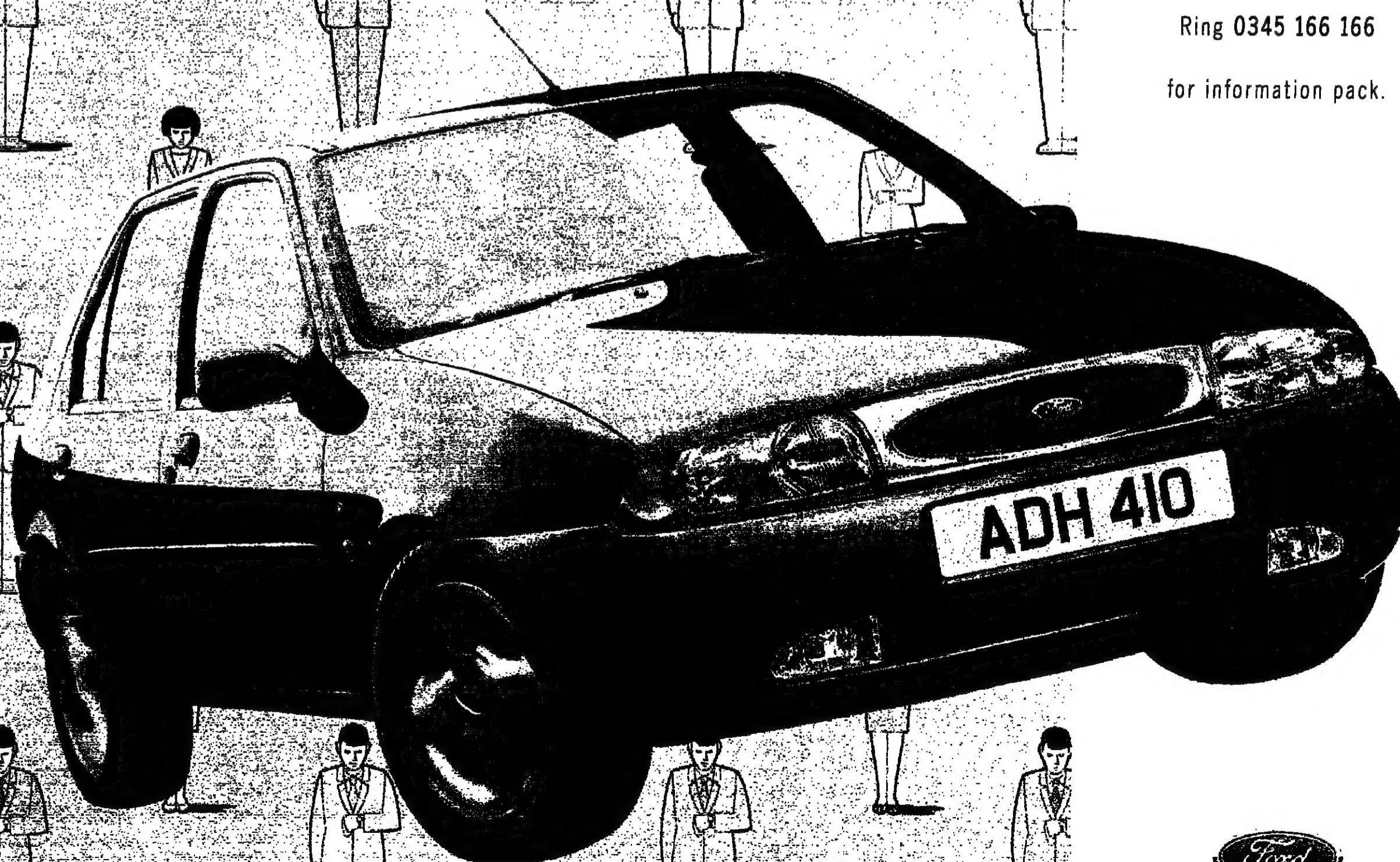
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# Mayor on disability benefit 'was filmed digging potatoes'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

INVESTIGATORS from the Department of Social Security trailed a town's mayor for five months, videoing his activities, a court was told yesterday.

Clive Cawthrow, 55, who was paid a disability allowance after claiming he could walk no further than 20 yards — and that only with the aid of crutches — was recorded running up the town hall steps, climbing unaided in and out of the civic limousine and digging potatoes in his garden.

DSS officials set up the surveillance operation when they heard the former miner had taken on the demanding role of the first citizen of Barnsley in South Yorkshire last May. Recording began the day after Mr Cawthrow, a Labour councillor for 13 years, was installed.

John Dearden, for the DSS, told the town's stipendiary magistrate yesterday that after a medical examination four years ago Mr Cawthrow lost the mobility allowance he had claimed since March 1988.

In 1992, when the disability living allowance was introduced, he applied for it but was turned down. However, it was granted on review and paid from July 1993.

Mr Cawthrow stated on claim forms that he suffered severe bouts of depression for which he was receiving psychiatric help. He had difficulty



Cawthrow: climbed into limousine unaided

walking more than 20 yards and could move only very slowly on level ground with the aid of sticks or crutches. Any further distance required a wheelchair. It could take him 35 minutes to get out of bed and half an hour to dress.

Mr Dearden said: "The DSS was surprised to see him appointed mayor in view of the content of that form." The investigators videoed him running up a street and on Yorkshire Day, August 1, he was seen walking round Barnsley town centre at the head of a procession. He was later filmed picking up an overturned bench in the Town

Hall gardens and walking unaided into the council chamber. Mr Dearden said: "There were no signs of any walking stick, crutches or wheelchair." He pointed out that the form had included an undertaking to report any change of circumstances.

Mr Cawthrow was arrested at his home on October 8 and resigned immediately. Yesterday he appeared in court accused of stealing £653 from the DSS between May 20 and October 8 this year. Reporting restrictions were lifted at the request of Gerard Hale, his solicitor.

He said there had been a prejudicial interpretation put on matters by the prosecution. "There have been rumours that my client has been bungee jumping and all manner of things which need to be scotched," he said.

Mr Cawthrow, who hobbled into court with a walking stick, chose Crown Court trial. The hearing was adjourned for four weeks and he was granted unconditional bail.

After the hearing Mr Hale said: "The mayor strenuously denies the charge. He has received hundreds of letters of support. A lighting fund has been established to pay for his legal expenses. People are not only supporting him verbally, they are putting their money where their mouths are. We are also appealing for witnesses to establish the extent of his disability."



Paul Keating posing with Gail Easdale, 23, his co-star in the Tommy revival

## Pinball wizard checks out of Tesco

BY DALYA ALBERGE

A SUPERMARKET check-out assistant with no professional acting or singing experience is to star in a £2 million West End revival of the rock musical *Tommy*.

Paul Keating, 19, was chosen by directors and producers from more than 7,000 hopefuls for the part of the "deaf, dumb and blind kid who sure plays a mean pinball" in the new production, which opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre next March.

Mr Keating, who works at Tesco in Romford, east London, beat off competition from seven well-known pop stars for the one-year contract. André Ptaszynski, the producer, said: "He's a great star." He described Mr Keating's voice as "a strong, rock tenor that starts in the middle of the chest, not throaty". Pete Townshend, of The Who, who wrote the music and lyrics, said: "He's an incredibly talented actor, a great singer. I have no doubt that we have discovered a brilliant new star."

Mr Keating will leave the supermarket next week. "They were very pleased for me and the manager was thrilled. He said I could have my job back if it all falls through," he said.

As a child Mr Keating sang in the church choir. At 11 he appeared in a production of *Les Misérables*. He has been earning extra money by singing at weddings.

## Husband's murder trial halted

The trial of Gordon Wardell for the murder of his wife Carol, a building society manager, was halted yesterday when a jury member disclosed unspecified information to officials at Oxford Crown Court.

Mr Justice Cresswell discharged the jury. The trial is expected to restart before a new jury today. Mr Wardell, 42, of Meriden, West Midlands, denies murder.

## Nuclear protest

Six activists from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament were detained and their dinghies confiscated by police when they tried to approach the *Pacific Pintail*, a ship used for carrying radioactive waste, at Canary Wharf, east London. They were released without charge.

## Palace guard

Buckingham Palace has sought the services of a specialist bird-searer, Steve Marston, to deter pigeons by installing a web of wires and nets over the roof. A spokeswoman said: "The Palace has many visitors, including heads of state, so it is appropriate it should be kept clean."

## Scripps appeals

John Scripps, the Briton facing the death penalty in Singapore, has appealed against his conviction and sentence for the murder of a South African tourist, his defence lawyers said. He is believed to be the first Westerner to be sentenced to the city's mandatory death sentence for murder.

## Holiday saviour

A British holidaymaker who saved a boy from a sinking ferry off Koh Samui, Thailand, has been invited to become his godfather. Arthur Hughes, 53, of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, supported Jessada Laohbhram, 3, in the sea for an hour before they were rescued.

## Twin town veto

Forest Heath District Council, Newmarket, has voted against a plan to twin the town with Urakawa, Japan's horse-breeding capital. Local Second World War veterans were incensed that Japanese officials proposed the link soon after the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

## Magpies fly out

Kevin Keegan, manager of the Premiership leaders Newcastle United, flew to Brunei with four players after an appeal for coaching tips from the Sultan's brother, who runs a struggling football team. They are due back for Saturday's fixture with Aston Villa.

Football, page 48

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## HGV driver stuck in dead end lane

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AN ARTICULATED lorry laden with dog food is stuck on a narrow mountain road in South Wales after the English driver was given the wrong directions by a local passer-by.

Attempts at rescue by RAF Chinook helicopter have been abandoned, thwarted by overhead power lines and a farmer's complaints about prize cattle being frightened.

Kevin Smith, 25, became lost near the remote village of Craigcynparc on Tuesday when he took the wrong turning off the M4 on his way to Llandovery. After asking a local man for instructions back to the main road, the £30,000, 50ft Mercedes lorry became wedged in a winding lane near a bridge and was unable to escape.

"I realised it was a bad move," he said yesterday. "I finally got to a section where the way ahead was a series of S-bends over bridges and

there is no way of going back. Even the recovery team said it could be impossible to manoeuvre the trailer out."

Mr Smith, 25, used his mobile telephone to call for help. He has spent two nights in the cab and had hospital treatment for a panic attack.

Later today, a specialist heavy vehicle recovery team will try to inch the lorry from the lane, but it will be the weekend before the truck is freed. If they fail it could become a permanent feature of the countryside.

The lorry was carrying its cargo for Owen Farming Transport of Bury St Edmunds, which Mr Smith joined only seven months ago. He said: "I've told my bosses and they laughed at first, but now I think the shock has set in. I'm sleeping in my cab. I've got plenty of food and the scenery is lovely, so I just have to wait and see."

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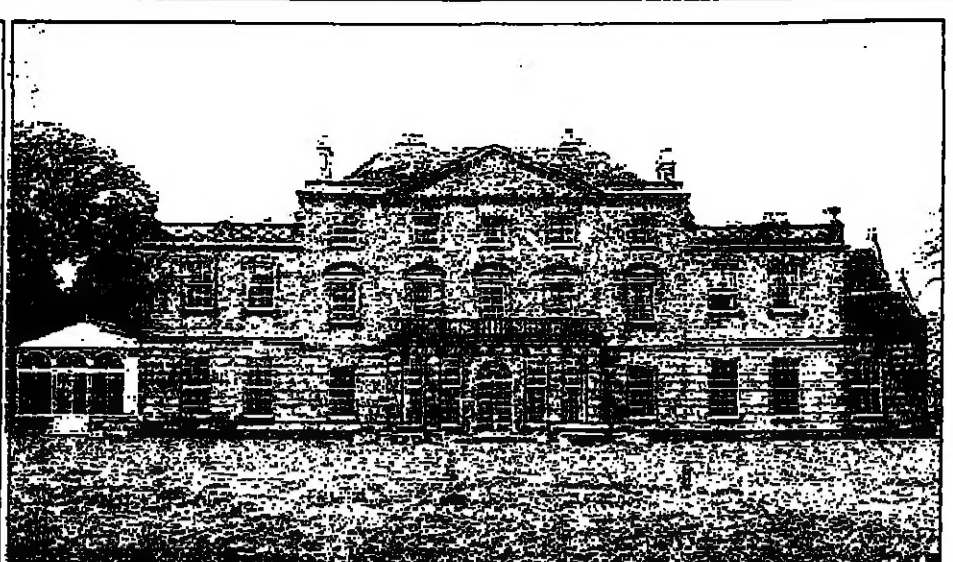
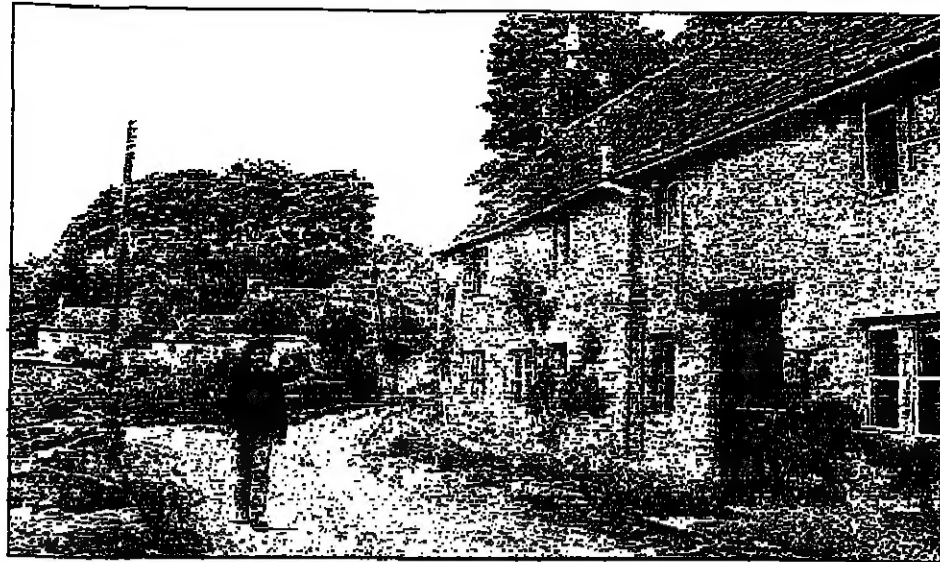
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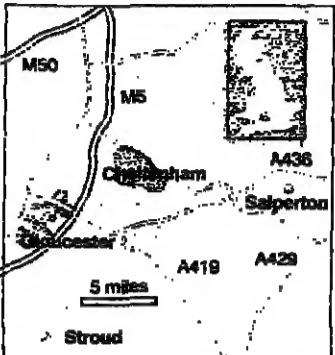




Community at the heart of a secret: the rural scene in the Cotswold village of Salperton, its high-tech new owner, the self-made millionaire Barry Houghton, and the 18th-century manor house on the site of an old monastery

## Telephone tycoon tells his villagers: it's not good to talk

By Robin Young



A TYCOON who made his fortune from the modern communications industry paid about £8 million for a carefully preserved Cotswold village and then asked the inhabitants to keep quiet about it.

Barry Houghton, whose company makes the base stations for cellular phones and cable links, was revealed yesterday as the new owner of Salperton in Gloucestershire. The community of 33 cottages around a manor house and Norman church has no street lighting, shop, public house or school, and generated its own electricity until a few years ago.

Villagers were told that life would continue unchanged and were asked to keep quiet about the sale two months ago. They complied. Mr Houghton, 47, and his family were introduced to their tenants at a party given by the vendor, Victor Watkins, the head of a London construction company. Ivy England, 79, widow of an estate foreman and a resident for 35 years, said yesterday: "Mr Houghton was keen not to have too much said about it, and people respected his wishes. You do what you are told, don't you?"

There were 120 people at the party, including all the villagers, neighbouring farmers and their families. I think everybody is very thankful that it is sold and that we are going to stay as we are. This is an idyllic place. I would never want to live anywhere else."

Mr Houghton is head of the Rainford Group, a Merseyside company he started in 1971 with £1,500, raised by selling his house. It was floated on the Stock Exchange this year and has a turnover of £64 million. The entrepreneur, who usually lives in Cheshire, was on a business trip to America yesterday.

His son Jason has taken over the daily running of the estate and has moved into Salperton Park, the 11-bedroom, 18th-century Grade II listed mansion house. He said: "We regard it as a private transaction and we do not want to say anything. There is no story here. We wanted the minimum of publicity."

## Cold War echoes as Leeson is sent to Far East

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A HANDOVER recalling Cold War exchanges awaits Nick Leeson, the former Barings Bank trader, next week. His transfer to the custody of Singaporean officials will be made in a remote, sealed-off section of Frankfurt international airport.

The 28-year old was allowed to say farewell to his father, brothers and sisters earlier this week as he prepared to face forgery and fraud charges in Singapore. The supervised encounter was unusual for the unbending German prison authorities. Hartmut Jung-Silberstein, director of Hoechst prison in Frankfurt, said: "It was an extraordinary meeting but then it is also extraordinary that he has to go to Singapore."

Mr Leeson will be the first person extradited from Germany to Singapore under a treaty signed in 1972. The Bonn Justice Ministry said that after the acceptance of Singapore's extradition request there was no further reason to hold him in Germany.

Mr Leeson will be exchanging a relatively comfortable prison existence — he has been allowed to work out in a gym and has been given access to books and newspapers — for the uncertainty of a Singapore

jail. In presenting the extradition request, lawyers emphasised that there was no question of Mr Leeson being caged if he is found guilty on charges relating to Barings's \$1.4 billion Asian trading losses.

But the manner of his exit from Germany, where he has been held since March, cannot reassure him. Airport sources suggested yesterday that Mr Leeson will be transferred from prison shortly before dawn, will be held in a transit lounge and handed to Singaporean officials in handcuffs.

The point of this melodramatic transfer is to protect Mr Leeson's security and allow him to have "a quiet journey" to Singapore, according to Gernot Broschat, the Frankfurt prosecutor. The main concern is that reporters will try to book tickets on the same aircraft as Mr Leeson and seek to interview him.

Lawyers in Singapore have said that Mr Leeson's trial could be over quickly, since much of the groundwork had been done. Singapore last month published the findings of an investigation into the Barings collapse. The report blamed Mr Leeson for unauthorised dealings but held his superiors responsible for a lack of supervision.

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# Howard gets tough on crime in readiness for election

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is to introduce two measures designed to portray the Government as taking a tough stand on crime and immigration in the run-up to the general election.

The Home Secretary will also try to regain the initiative on law and order from Labour with a White Paper outlining proposals for mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and violent offenders.

But the size of the Government's majority has forced ministers to delay proposals to introduce identity cards despite strong backing from John Major and Mr Howard.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill, designed to clamp down on asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, is expected to be unveiled within the next few days.

Mr Howard will also publish measures to prevent defence "ambushes" of the prosecution in court. The Bill will create a statutory scheme for the disclosure of material to be used and not used in trials, and allow retrials in

## LAW AND ORDER

cases where an acquittal has been achieved through the nobbling of juries and witnesses.

But it is the Asylum Bill that will be most strongly opposed. Labour has accused the Government of playing the race card before the general election, and pointed out that an Asylum Bill was also introduced before the 1992 poll.

Ministers have defended the Bill by pointing to a surge in applications for asylum, which are estimated to reach 40,000, excluding dependants, this year. They claim that many are economic migrants rather than genuine refugees.

The most controversial proposal in the Bill will be the creation of a "white list" of countries deemed to be safe. Asylum applications from residents of those countries will be presumed to be unfounded.

An asylum applicant from a country on the list will have their case dealt with on an individual basis, but because



Howard: backed down on ID card scheme

the claim is presumed to be unfounded the burden of proof will be on the applicant.

Applications deemed to be unfounded will be dealt with within 42 days. Appeals against removal to a safe third country will be allowed only after an applicant has left Britain. The Bill will also include measures to accelerate the asylum appeals process.

The Government is also seeking to restrict benefits to asylum applicants. The Government's social security advisory committee is studying

plans to curb payments, which it is estimated will save £200 million a year. It wants to end benefit for people who apply for asylum at ports if they appeal against a decision to refuse them refugee status, and those applying for asylum after arriving in Britain as a visitor or student.

But Mr Howard's proposal to force employers to check the records of potential recruits in an effort to curb illegal immigration has run into trouble after strong opposition from employers' organisations. He will now publish a consultation paper on his plans.

The proposal, which was first considered and rejected when Kenneth Clarke was Home Secretary, has been resisted by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, who felt it would be seen as racist, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was concerned at imposing an additional regulatory burden on industry.

The Criminal Investigations Bill will make it more difficult for defendants to introduce plausible but false defences at

the last minute. It will also protect sensitive information including the identities of informants being disclosed to defendants.

Under the new Bill the prosecution would have to disclose any unused material that might undermine its case to the defence; after receiving this the defence would disclose information to the Crown about its case and then the prosecution would have to disclose any additional unused material that might assist the defence. It would be possible to draw an inference of guilt from a failure by the defence to comply with its duties. The Bill will also allow a retrial in a case where a defendant has walked free if the acquittal is tainted by a subsequent conviction for nobbling witnesses or jurors.

In a joint statement on the proposal, the Bar Council and Law Society called for "vital safeguards... to protect the innocent". Robert Roscoe, chairman of the Law Society's criminal law committee, said that the proposed reforms would lead to more wrongful convictions rather than fewer.



## MI5 will gain power to enter crooks' homes

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Security Service, which is to gain new powers to tackle organised and serious crime as well as terrorism, espionage and subversion, will be authorised to intercept the mail of suspected criminals and to enter their homes.

The wider remit for MI5 which was heralded in John Major's speech to the Conservative Party conference last month, will bring it closer to the police. Once the legislation amending the 1989 Security Service Act and the 1994 Intelligence Services Act has been passed by Parliament, MI5 will provide the police with intelligence gathering and analysis. The definition of organised or serious crime is expected to be one of the issues to be debated by MPs before the amendments are approved.

Security sources acknowledged that there would have to be clear limits agreed by Parliament. Under the Intelligence Services Act, MI6 and GCHQ are empowered to seek warrants to enter homes but their main interest is in gathering intelligence relating to threats to British interests abroad. The Act would have to be amended to include MI5 among the agencies empow-

### INTELLIGENCE

ered to seek warrants for tackling serious crime.

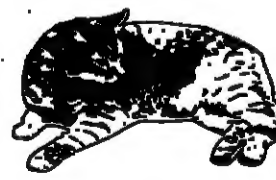
The Intelligence and Security Committee, the parliamentary oversight body headed by Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, is understood to be trying to define organised crime in anticipation of the new role for MI5. MPs will expect MI5's new responsibility to be restricted to areas such as money laundering, drug trafficking and organised crime groups which pose a "strategic threat". These could include the mafia, triads, Yardies and organisations run by former KGB and East European intelligence officers.

However, a much looser definition of serious crime appears in the 1985 Interception of Communications Act. It describes serious crime as an offence which involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conducted by a large number of persons "in pursuit of a common purpose".

MI5's budget of about £150 million a year is not expected to be increased to cover the new role.

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WELSH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

THE court martial system is expected to be changed when the Army, Royal Marines and the Royal Naval School of Maritime Operations are merged into a single command.

The reform of the court martial system will be conducted by a Common Law Commission. Although there is no likelihood that court martial will be abolished, Army chiefs now acknowledge the need for reform.

In particular, criticism has been directed at the procedure under which a single senior officer is responsible not only for convening a court martial and selecting the president and members of the court but also for deciding on the charges to be faced by defendants. Army chiefs agree that although this system has worked effectively, it may be unwise to put so much responsibility in the hands of one person if they are also concerned that European law on human rights could force changes unless reforms are introduced.

## Help and

By IAN MCGEE

EXTRA help and resources for people to buy their own homes are being made available by the new Housing Bill. The new Bill will be introduced in the Commons next week.

But the provisions to create a further £1 billion

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# Hopeful Tories see potential votes in nursery voucher scheme

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

PLANS to privatise student loans and introduce nursery vouchers will underline the widening gulf between the parties on education.

One of the two Bills will also give grant-maintained schools new borrowing powers. Ministers hope the change, coupled with "fast-track" opting out for state schools, will offer fresh momentum to the Government's flagship education policy.

Nursery vouchers are to be pioneered in at least four education

authorities after Easter, but legislation is needed to give all parents of four-year-olds the right to a voucher in 1997. The vouchers, worth £1,100, are seen as a vote-winner for the Conservatives in the next general election.

The student loans proposals, however, are included as a means of reducing public spending and widening choice. A "twin-track" system would allow students to choose between a conventional student loan and a bank equivalent.

Borrowers would be offered the same subsidised rate from both

## EDUCATION

sources. The Department for Education and Employment said last night that the switch should encourage a move towards loans tailored to individual needs.

The Bill would allow the Treasury to bridge some or all of the gap between commercial interest rates and those set for students. Discussions with the banks are continuing, and no scheme has yet been agreed in detail.

Ministers hoped that the banks would run the original scheme, but

had to establish the Student Loans Company in 1990, using public money. Although the prospect of public subsidy and changes in student attitudes make the new package more attractive, both banks and building societies have remained sceptical.

This week, the department disclosed that more than £1 billion loaned to students is yet to be repaid. In 1994-5, students borrowed £538.8 million, and only £36.1 million was collected.

Student leaders condemned the reform. Jim Murphy, president of the National Union of Students,

said: "Students will be outraged at the Government's plans to privatise student loans and allow others to profit from student hardship."

University administrators were also disappointed at the absence of a radical solution to the problem of student support. Dr Gareth Roberts, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "The repayments process is thoroughly flawed. Graduates should be able to pay back a sustainable percentage of their earnings for as long as it takes to repay the debt."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary,

criticised a "two-tier system" of student debt. Applicants considered a poor risk by the banks would be forced into a second-rate scheme.

The Education Bill, on nursery vouchers and grant-maintained schools, is likely to prove equally controversial. Opposition parties remain critical of the voucher scheme and ministers are yet to finalise their proposals on accelerated opting out for church schools.

Church authorities have expressed doubts about removing parents' rights to determine their schools' status, and yesterday's

programme did not promise legislation. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has extended the deadline for responses to the Government's proposals. She is likely to reach a compromise before finalising the Bill.

Mr Blunkett said that the "feeble" proposals were an embarrassment to the Government. "Instead of tackling the real issues the Government has lurched to the Right so much that it is only interested in introducing the extremist cast-offs of right-wing think-tanks."

# Mackay prepares for battle over divorce reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor intends to stand firm on his proposals to allow "no fault" divorce after one year although his Bill faces a rough ride from right-wing MPs.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern's Family Law Bill, to be published today after the failure of a determined campaign from the Tory Right, will allow divorces after one year if the couple concerned have reached agreement on their finances and made arrangements for their children.

Although some MPs want to see the one year extended, Lord Mackay is unlikely to give way on that on the ground that the longer that people must wait, the more exceptions will have to be made to the rule.

The Bill ends the present "quickie divorce" procedure, which enables a couple to obtain a divorce in less than six months. This is used by 75 per cent of divorcing couples. Where couples do not allege fault, they can divorce after two years with agreement, or after five years without agreement.

The Bill's main aim is not to make divorce quicker or easier but to remove the acrimony by reducing the role of lawyers and the courts. It provides for a couple to file jointly for divorce, and builds in a requirement for couples to be told about mediation and other marriage support services.

Among the Bill's main ele-

## FAMILY LAW

ments are the compulsory information session and the requirement — in most cases — for couples to have considered using face-to-face mediation as a way of reaching agreement on children and finances.

Lord Mackay has already indicated substantial concessions and clarifications to the Bill in his effort to have it included in this legislative session.

The compulsory information session would not be public, nor held in a group. Ways of providing information on all the marriage support and legal services are to be tested in a pilot study. But they will include the private hire of a video film, backed by telephone calls. People will have to provide documentary evidence that they have received this information when they file their statement of marital breakdown. For the first time, this will contain no allegation of fault.

The Bill will encourage divorcing couples to use mediation although Lord Mackay has made clear that mediation will not be compulsory. In some cases, such as where there is domestic violence, it will be considered unsuitable.

But if a person chooses to go to a solicitor and the solicitor deems he or she is suitable for mediation then a discussion of

the likely benefits will be arranged. Likewise, if a dispute over finances or children comes to court, then the court will have power to adjourn the case and require the parties to meet with a mediator to consider mediation at that stage.

There will be built-in incentives to reach agreement through mediation rather than in the courts. The statutory charge, which is a clawback made in legal aid cases by the Legal Aid Board from the proceeds of the sale of the couple's house, may not apply to mediated settlements.

The divorce itself, which cannot be applied for within the first 12 months of marriage, will be available after the 12-month "cooling off" period has elapsed and the couple has provided documentary evidence of the arrangements they have reached.

Courts can also grant the divorce order in certain limited circumstances where agreement has not been reached: if, for instance, either party is deliberately obstructive.

Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said: "The Lord Chancellor has shown a great deal of political courage in tackling divorce law reform and the law on domestic violence. We have argued consistently in favour of no-fault divorce. The attempt to find fault in marriage merely adds bitterness to an already difficult situation."



Two members of the Royal Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard preparing to check the cellars beneath the House of Lords for barrels of gunpowder before the State Opening of Parliament yesterday. The earliest known record of the search taking place was in 1641, in reaction to a renewed threat of Catholic uprisings

# Right wins concession on family law

LORD MACKAY has conceded several changes to his proposed reforms of the law on domestic violence aimed at placating the Tory Right (Frances Gibb writes). The Lord Chancellor has removed key proposals in the Family Law Bill but the price is a series of amendments intended mainly to demonstrate support for the family.

However he has refused to make changes to meet criticisms that courts, when making orders in cases of domestic violence, can look at the mental suffering of a person as well as the physical violence they have suffered.

Nor has he agreed to change a proposed power for courts to reassign a tenancy from one person occupying the home to the other, whether they were joint tenants or not — a power favoured by local councils when relationships between council tenants break down.

Lord Mackay's proposals strengthen and rationalise existing remedies that can be obtained from the courts by victims of violence. Two kinds of orders can be obtained: non-molestation orders and occupation orders, which can be obtained to stop an attacker from entering the premises. The agreed

changes all govern the obtaining of occupation orders, which were seized on by some Tory MPs as giving live-in lovers the right to oust their partner and take ownership of his home.

There is a new general principle that courts making an occupation order must have regard to the fact that people who are cohabiting have not made the same commitment as married couples.

The new Bill will distinguish between married and unmarried couples when it comes to the new "balance of harm" test that courts will apply when making the occupation orders.

# Watchdog given more power

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

## HEALTH

LEGISLATION to allow the health service ombudsman to investigate clinical complaints marks the culmination of a 20-year campaign to extend his powers beyond investigating cases of maladministration.

Every year, the ombudsman is forced to turn away a large proportion of the complaints referred to him because they deal with clinical matters. In 1994-5 he rejected 258 for that reason. When the plan to change the law was announced earlier this year William Reid, the present holder of the post, described it as the most significant in the 22 years his office has existed.

Medical organisations have argued that it would be inappropriate for a lay person without clinical expertise to sit in judgment on a clinical case. The only recourse for patients dissatisfied with the NHS clinical complaints procedure, in which consultants sit in judgment on one another, has been to the courts.

The Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Bill will also extend the jurisdiction of the ombudsman to include complaints about GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians.

Under the Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill, disabled people will be given the money to buy their own community care instead of having to rely on social services.

# Courts martial to be changed

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

## THE FORCES

THE court martial system is expected to be changed when the Armed Forces Act is reviewed next year in the light of alleged human rights violations.

The review of the act, included in the Queen's Speech, will be conducted by a Commons Select Committee. Although there is no likelihood that courts martial will be abolished, Army chiefs now acknowledge the need for reform.

In particular, criticism has been directed at the procedure under which a single senior officer is responsible not only for convening a court martial and selecting the president and members of the court but also deciding on the charges to be faced by defendants. Army chiefs agree that although this system has worked effectively, it may be unwise to put so much responsibility in the hands of one person. They are also concerned that European law on human rights could force changes unless reforms are introduced.

# Bottomley rejects pleas for TV rule flexibility

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY has rejected pleas for greater flexibility in the proposed new rules on cross-media ownership. The Broadcasting Bill, to be published at the end of the month, is expected to endorse the formula set out by Stephen Dorrell, her predecessor as Heritage Secretary, in May.

Mr Dorrell proposed that newspaper companies with less than 20 per cent of total national circulation would be able to own television companies, subject to a limit of 15 per cent of the total television audience.

Senior ministerial sources indicated yesterday that Mrs Bottomley would hold to this formula, which would exclude from terrestrial television interests the two biggest national press groups — News International, which owns The Times and four other newspapers, and Mirror Group, owner of the Mirror and Independent titles.

The sources said that with the principal exception of News International, a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, the proposals had found favour with the media industry during the three-month consultation period. "The Bill is a liberalising measure and almost everyone accepts that and most wel-



Cunningham wants competitive companies

## THE MEDIA

come it," one insider said. News International strongly attacked the Government's blueprint in May, saying it would deter companies from investing to expand and encourage higher cover prices as a way of holding down circulation.

These views were echoed by some right-wing Conservative MPs, although most backed the Government at the time. Yesterday a number of senior Tories said the Government was nervous of its new legislation.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary,

said he thought the ownership thresholds were "in the right ballpark". But Labour was looking for flexibility in the legislation so that the industry was not saddled with a framework that quickly dated and so that companies were big enough to compete abroad.

Sir Peter Lloyd, a former broadcasting minister, called for greater flexibility in the regulatory regime. In the long run, he would like to see threats to competition dealt with by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission rather than "arbitrary" rules.

"We are running the risk of making our own media organisations attractive to foreign take-overs without allowing them to achieve critical mass so that they can expand their operations abroad," Sir Peter said.

The Broadcasting Bill will set out the new cross-media ownership rules, which would eventually be replaced by a simpler structure limiting any one owner to 10 per cent of the combined television, radio and newspaper marketplace.

The Government said the Bill would help British media companies to compete more effectively in overseas markets, allowing them to exploit opportunities in the expanding global media market.

# Help and incentives for new buyers

By IAN MURRAY

EXTRA help and incentives for people to buy their own homes are at the heart of a new Housing Bill to be introduced by the Government.

But the proposals, meant to create a further 15 million

homeowners over the next decade, were immediately attacked by Labour, local authorities and housing charities as a recipe for homelessness. Critics said the Bill would fail to meet the growing need for social housing and predicted a shortage of nearly 400,000 units by the turn of the century.

Under the Bill, housing association tenants will be given the right to buy their homes. New tenants will qualify for grants of £8,000-£16,000 towards the purchase price, depending on where they live. The purchase price money will be given back to the housing associations to build new properties.

Since 80 per cent of all new housing association tenants

## HOUSING

are on housing benefit, very few will afford to buy. The Government's own estimates suggest that no more than 2,000 a year will consider buying.

Council tenants will be given the choice of having their estates taken over by private landlords if they think they will be better managed that way. At the same time the Government means to change the rule that allows the homeless to jump to the head of the housing queue for social housing. The aim is to allocate empty properties to those who have a good prior claim, leaving the homeless to make do with bed-and-breakfast ac-

commodation and short-term lets in private property.

Other proposals include probationary one-year leases for social housing, with badly behaved tenants liable for eviction and being made homeless if they prove to be bad neighbours.

Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Housing Minister, described the proposals as a further betrayal of home-owners and the homeless. He said the new bill would be "a rag bag of measures prompted more by rightwing ideology than the need to tackle the country's housing crisis".

Nothing would be done to revive the housing market, solve negative equity or stop the 1,000 repossession a week, he said.

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# Major promises to seek new curbs on drug trade

By JAMES LANDALE AND ALICE THOMSON

JOHN MAJOR announced fresh moves yesterday to curb the flow of illegal drugs into Britain and Europe.

Amid growing public concern over the case of Leah Betts, the Essex student who has been in a coma since taking an Ecstasy pill on her eighteenth birthday, the Prime Minister said Britain would call for European Union funds to help Caribbean states battling against drug smuggling from South America.

Opening the first of six days of debate on the Queen's Speech, Mr Major said: "Only in the last few days we have seen a particularly highly publicised and tragic case of how drugs can devastate a family. And in an evil trade like this, no drug is soft, and no drug is safe."

Mr Major discussed the move with President Chirac of France during his recent visit to Britain and with Caribbean leaders during last week's Commonwealth conference in New Zealand. "The intention would be to find the resources to stop the Caribbean being used as a way-station for drugs from Latin America en route to northern Europe," Mr

## DEBATE

Major told the Commons. "If we can stop the drug trade there, we will damage it significantly and do a great service to many hundreds of thousands of people right the way throughout northern Europe."

The move came after Tony Blair, the Labour leader, described the planned programme of legislation as "a pathetic mouse of a Queen's Speech" and said the Prime Minister had run out of ideas.

Mr Blair said he could not comment on how the Queen responded when she first saw the address, but he added: "The reaction of most people would be: 'Is this it?'"

Labour, he said, would continue to support ministers over Northern Ireland. He accepted that some of the Bills may prove uncontentious but the rest of the Queen's Speech was "utterly irrelevant" to the interests of Britain. "It is about the interests of the Tory Party cobbling together any old bric-a-brac of legislation that can keep the

Conservative Party in one piece and appease the right wing." He added: "It is as far from one-nation politics as it is possible to imagine."

Mr Blair told the House that Britain was now 18th in world economic rankings. "People often say about the Conservatives, they say they may be cruel but they're competent. This is an economic record of shame. They are cruel and incompetent in equal measure."

On political asylum, Mr Blair said: "We oppose bogus applications and fraud and we recognise the need for immigration controls. But race and immigration should not be the plaything of party politics." He called for the Bill to go before a Commons standing committee "and let it be a genuine consensual exercise in getting at the truth."

Mr Major rejected Mr Blair's claims and launched an attack on the Labour leader. "I have rarely heard such copper-plated nonsense as you fed to the House this afternoon," he told Mr Blair. "It was frankly humbug at its very worst. It was juvenile in its style of criticism. It was what we

have come to expect from you — cheap soundbites and no indication of your real policy substance, if you have any at all."

He rejected Mr Blair's claim that Labour was now the only party supporting "one nation" policies. "There is only one party and it is mine that is truly the one-nation party in this country."

Mr Major told Mr Blair: "You would start by dividing up the UK and covering it with a rash of assemblies. You would then give the remnants to Brussels because you wouldn't want to be isolated on any issue. You would put the young out of work with a minimum wage. Those aren't the policies that would create one nation. They would weaken it, split it and divide it."

On divorce reforms, Mr Major said the measures would ensure couples faced up to their responsibilities to each other, and to their children. "No Conservative government led by me could introduce legislation that would undermine marriage and the role of the family. I believe these measures are emphatically pro-marriage."



The Queen on her way to the state opening of Parliament yesterday

## Soldier thrown by bolting horse

A CAVALRYMAN riding with the Queen's coach was injured when he was thrown from his horse during the ceremonial procession.

The Life Guard fell when his mount bolted near the Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace, the force of the fall breaking his sword. The Queen appeared not to have seen the accident.

Other carriages had to detour around the injured soldier as he lay on the ground. Police and ambulance men lifted him onto a stretcher and into an ambulance which took him to hospital.

A St John Ambulance spokesman said the cavalryman injured the right side of his head, arm, elbow and hip and was briefly unconscious. He was expected to be discharged from hospital last night.

The horse returned to The Household Cavalry stables near by.

## Struggle against terrorism and organised crime still a priority

The following is an edited text of the Queen's Speech:

### THE SPEECH

NATIONAL security remains of the highest importance to my Government. They will continue to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and to promote Britain's wider security interests by contributing to the maintenance of international peace and stability. The United Kingdom's minimum nuclear deterrent will be maintained.

My Government will encourage a co-operative relationship between Nato and Russia and will offer further help to countries in Central and Eastern Europe to consolidate democratic reforms and build stability and prosperity in the region. My Government will continue to work to preserve and modernise the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty. During their presidency of the Western European Union next year, they will work to enhance that organisation's effectiveness.

Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains a priority. The fight against terrorism, organised crime, and drug misuse and trafficking, in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, will remain a priority.

My Government will continue to pursue the objective of transatlantic free trade in the context of world trade liberalisation. In the European Union, my Government will participate in the 1996 Inter-Governmental Conference and contribute to preparing the Union for further enlargement.

Reform of the United Nations, and efforts to enhance the organisation's effectiveness in peace-keeping, will remain an important objective. My Government will work to develop the capacity of the United Nations and regional organisations in the prevention of conflict. They will continue to promote a negotiated settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

My Government will continue working to strengthen ties between members of the Commonwealth. My Government will work for the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. My Government will maintain support for the Middle East Peace Process.

In Northern Ireland my Government will continue to build on the present peace and to create the conditions for political progress through inclusive talks. They will facilitate economic development and promote fair and equitable treatment for all people in Northern Ireland.

My Government will continue with firm financial policies designed to support economic growth and rising employment, based on permanently low inflation. Fiscal policy will continue to be set to bring the public sector borrowing requirement back towards balance over the medium term. The share of national income taken by the public sector will be reduced.

My Government will improve the performance of the economy, by encouraging enterprise and competitiveness and offering support for small

businesses. They will promote further deregulation. They will introduce a Bill to extend choice and competition in broadcasting by providing for new digital services and easing restrictions on media ownership. Legislation will again be brought before you to authorise the construction and operation of a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel.

Increased competitiveness will be encouraged by raising educational and skill levels, advancing knowledge and promoting an efficient and flexible labour market. Legislation will be laid before you to expand nursery education for four-year-olds and to allow grant-maintained schools to borrow on the commercial market.

Legislation will be introduced to enable students to choose between private and public suppliers of subsidised loans. In Scotland, legislation

## Minimum nuclear deterrent will be maintained

will be introduced to reform education and training. My Government will continue to improve the quality of public services, through the Citizen's Charter programme and by other means.

A Bill will be introduced to streamline further the handling of asylum applications and to strengthen enforcement of immigration controls.

Legislation will be laid before you to enable the Security Service to assist the law enforcement agencies in their work against organised crime; and to reform the procedures in criminal cases, including those for prosecution and defence disclosure.

Legislation will be introduced to extend the Parliamentary Health Service Commission's jurisdiction and to enable local authorities to make payments to particular groups of people who want to purchase their own community care. My Government will introduce legislation to reform the law governing divorce and other aspects of family law. Other measures, including other measures of law reform, will be laid before you.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.



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صكنا من الامل



# Mandela calls for Major to support Nigeria oil embargo

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa moved decisively yesterday to reassert his moral authority and set the agenda for pressing Nigeria towards democracy, urging Britain to support oil sanctions against the military regime.

Mr Mandela, who is in New Zealand, said that he had exchanged views about sanctions in a telephone conversation with Mr Major and said he was seeking consultations with President Clinton. "They are the people who can bring the type of pressure General Abacha is unlikely to resist," Mr Mandela said.

The South African President has faced growing calls at home and abroad to give a firm lead in handling the confrontation with Nigeria after the execution of nine activists, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, despite appeals for clemency to General Sani Abacha, Nigerian military ruler.

Mr Mandela seems determined to make amends after criticism by Nigerian pro-democracy activists that his Government's policy of quiet diplomacy was inappropriate and reminiscent of British-American "constructive engagement" on apartheid, which his African National Congress condemned.

Underlining the change in his approach to Nigeria's military regime since the start of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting last week, Mr Mandela said fail-

Brussels: European Union ambassadors yesterday approved a total arms embargo and tight visa restrictions on Nigerian government officials to punish the military regime. But the EU stopped short of threatening oil sanctions. At the European Parliament, Ken Wiwa, son of the executed writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa, demanded an international oil embargo. (AP)

ure to apply oil sanctions would weaken any action against Nigeria because oil was the lifeblood of the military junta.

Calling on other countries to follow his lead, he said that attempts to turn the screws on the military regime would be ineffective without the backing of Nigeria's principal trading partners and the United Nations Security Council.

Mr Mandela has won support for his stand from Jim Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister. He has agreed to raise the issue with Mr Clinton and Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Japan this weekend.

However, Mr Mandela evidently recognises that there was not much appetite for sanctions in countries with close economic ties to Nigeria, and he said that he had not pressed Mr Major "very

much". While South Africa's trade interests with Nigeria are negligible, the United States buys half of Nigeria's oil and last year Britain exported more than £450 million worth of goods to the West African state.

A senior South African government official said yesterday that the President's call for sanctions and its timing had caught many by surprise. The impression that Mr Mandela had not consulted other members of his Government was highlighted by comments by Aziz Pahad, the Deputy Foreign Minister. Hours before Mr Mandela said he would lobby world opinion to impose sanctions, Mr Pahad appeared to dismiss calls for sanctions against Nigeria on the grounds that South Africa did not have the necessary clout to twist the arms of other governments.

Mr Pahad yesterday issued a statement in which he claimed that the differences arose from a possible misunderstanding of what he had said. The Cabinet, also meeting yesterday, sought to play down any suggestions of a rift over the issue and gave its full backing to sanctions.

However, differences persist. While the Department of Foreign Affairs has been cautious, the ANC as a party has been bold in its criticism of Nigeria and is expected to give its full backing to sanctions.

Letters, page 21

## Winnie must pay £20,000 jet bill

BY INIGO GILMORE

WINNIE MANDELA lost a court battle over unpaid bills for the hire of a luxury jet yesterday, leaving her more than 100,000 rands (£20,000) out of pocket.

The Rand Supreme Court ruled in favour of a civil suit brought against the President's estranged wife by Foster Webb Air Charter in connection with a diamond-buying operation in Angola. The court heard how Mrs Mandela, allegedly out to make money quickly, hired a Lear jet at a cost of 53,674 rands for a delegation to collect diamonds from President dos Santos. He turned them back, saying he had no knowledge of the deal.

Judge John Myburgh refused to postpone the case to allow Mrs Mandela, who left for America on Sunday, to give evidence. "Quite simply, she took a chance that others would be able to give her defence for her. You have two witnesses who hardly help your case, and one has disappeared."

The witness was expected to support Mrs Mandela's contention that costs should be borne by Ben du Preez, who led the operation, or the charity Co-ordinated Anti-Poverty Programme, which she heads.

The judge said Mrs Mandela had not explained her claim that the charity was liable for a luxury flight for a deal that lasted five minutes. He found that Mrs Mandela had concluded the contract with Foster Webb and that there was no substance for her defence.

## Bankrupt investor shoots himself

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BANGKOK

A THAI investor who went bankrupt playing the stock market, shot himself in the neck in the lobby of the stock exchange building here yesterday. He was reported to be recovering last night.

"My blood will help clean the stock market," Vivat Srisammasheep, 49, said. He pulled the trigger as he sat on the floor of the stock exchange of Bangkok, demanding to speak to Seri Chintanaseri, its president.

A videotape of the shooting was taken by a television cameraman. Police rushed in as Mr Vivat slumped over.

Suvicha Mingkwan, a stock exchange official, said Mr Vivat told police earlier that he had gone bankrupt, and claimed to have lost between 30 million (£775,000) and 40 million baht.

Chaiyot Sahasakul, a spokesman for the exchange, tried to calm Mr Vivat as Mr Seri made his way to the lobby. "But he didn't wait," the official said. Mr Vivat had been in a group of up to 80 investors who had protested outside Mr Seri's office yesterday. They wanted Mr Seri and the board of governors to resign. They also demanded rule changes to help boost the share index, which has fallen to its lowest level in almost six months. After the group left, Mr Vivat stayed in the lobby and pulled out his gun.

His broker said he had invested when the index was very high and had been losing money for nearly two years.



Vivat Srisammasheep sits in the Bangkok stock exchange with a gun under his chin yesterday. Last night, he was recovering from a bullet wound in the neck

## Hindu extremists accuse Mother Teresa

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI



Mother Teresa: chided

THE Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's order, is worried by growing criticism of its activities in the slums of Calcutta and elsewhere in India.

For decades the Albanian-born nun's work was regarded as beyond criticism, but this year she has encountered unprecedented, if gentle, chiding in newspaper articles. She has also come under fierce attack by Hindu zealots. Cal-

cutta's politicians and middle classes were quietly ambivalent about her work, which helped make the city's name synonymous with poverty and cruelty.

In recent months the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, an extreme Hindu political organisation, has poured scorn on Mother Teresa, 85, and accused her of converting Hindus to Christianity. The order denied the accusation. Others have rallied at Mother Teresa for opposing contraception and abortion in a

country desperately needing to curb population growth.

According to the Telegraph in Calcutta, the order believes that Mother Teresa's stock reply to critics — "I will pray for them" — sounds too defensive. A meeting of sisters, Catholic clergy and volunteer workers at Mother House, the headquarters in Calcutta, discussed the attacks on Mother Teresa, 85, and decided it was time to sound a "stern note" in reply. This will reportedly take the form of responding to all criticism in future.

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# Russia, America, Canada and Germany in space as Atlantis docks with Mir



Thomas Reiter, right, the German cosmonaut, greets astronauts Chris Hadfield, of Canada, and American Jerry Ross. Russia's Yuri Gidzenko is at the back

## 'You guys made the incredible look easy'

FROM VICKI VAUGHAN IN CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA

THE *Atlantis* space shuttle gingerly edged up to Russia's *Mir* space station and docked with it less than an hour later yesterday, about 245 miles above the Earth.

The five astronauts led by Ken Cameron, the *Atlantis* commander, greeted the three *Mir* cosmonauts less than three hours later with traditional Russian gifts of sweets and chocolate.

The shuttle crew floated through the module they had installed on *Mir* and the crews posed for pictures amid a jumble of equipment in the space station. The astronauts smiled and waved, flanked by flags of the nations participating in the docking — Russia, the United States, Germany and Canada. About 50 Nasa personnel will visit the giant *Mir* station next year in an international venture.

Yesterday, the spacemen received a telephone call from Wil Trafton, Nasa's director of the international space station. He told them: "You guys made the incredible look

very easy. This is an important step in the building of an international space station."

The head of the Russian space agency and the Russian Academy of Sciences also offered congratulations from the national control centre in Kaliningrad, near Moscow.

Later, the *Atlantis* crew were to present other gifts to the cosmonauts, including a collapsible guitar, to relieve the tedium of their long stay in space. The *Mir* crew, which includes two Russians and a German, has been in orbit since September 3. They will return to Earth in February.

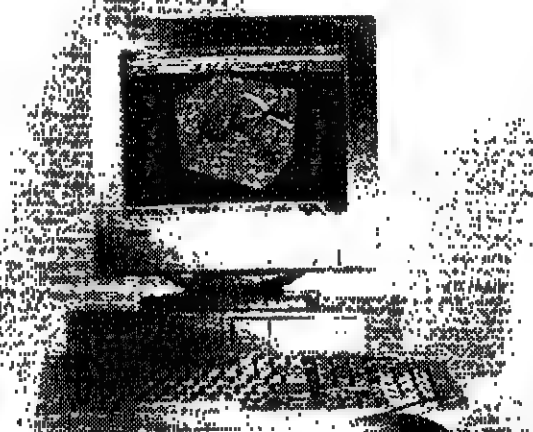
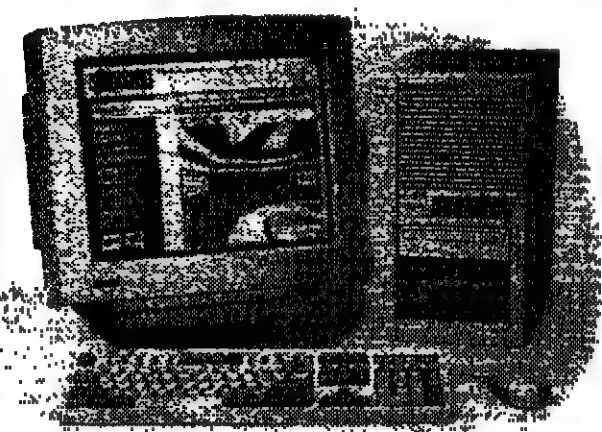
The delicate docking was important because the 15t docking module installed will be used by every other shuttle to dock with *Mir*.

The shuttle crew transferred water, clothing and letters from home to *Mir*. The crews will spend three days together and share a meal of shrimp cocktail, steak, potatoes, cherry pie and ice cream. *Atlantis* should return to Earth on Monday. (Reuters)



The *Mir* space station yesterday, with the Russian-built orange docking module below. It was ferried up by astronauts on the *Atlantis* space shuttle

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PC Computing, June 1995

## Roh facing arrest in \$654m Seoul corruption inquiry

FROM SHIM SUNG WON IN SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA'S former President, Roh Tae Woo, was called in yesterday by state prosecutors for the second time to be questioned over his \$654 million (£419 million) slush fund. Media reports said that his arrest was imminent.

Early editions of several South Korean morning newspapers carried headlines saying "Mr Roh arrested today". State television quoted prosecutors as saying Mr Roh would be arrested in the early hours of this morning. They say they have proof that Mr Roh took bribes from big business, signalling that only the timing of his arrest is at issue.

Mr Roh would be the first South Korean head of state to face criminal action. The maximum penalty for bribery in South Korea is life in jail.

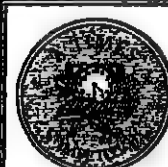
A prosecution official said that a warrant for Mr Roh's arrest would not be sought overnight. However, he did not rule out an arrest some time today. Mr Roh was summoned after one of his aides quoted him as threatening to tell all about his funding of candidates for the 1992 presidential election, which was won by Kim Young Sam. Opposition groups saw this as a veiled warning to Mr Kim and urged Mr Roh to tell the

truth. The biggest question is whether Mr Kim took money from Mr Roh. The President has denied receiving "a single cent", but opinion polls suggest that most South Koreans think he is lying.

Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader, has confessed to accepting several million dollars from Mr Roh, damaging his chances in parliamentary polls next April.

Ahn Kang Min, who is leading the investigation, said Mr Roh had warned him of the dangers of taking the inquiry too far. He said Mr Roh told him that if prosecutors allowed public opinion to be their guide "the whole nation could be unhappy". Thousands of demonstrators have demanded jail for Mr Roh and a criminal investigation of President Kim.

In a tearful confession last month, the four-star general, 62, confessed to plundering \$654 million from business groups for a political war chest during his 1988-93 term. He says he still has \$242 million in his secret coffers. Mr Ahn said yesterday that prosecutors had discovered an additional 35.5 billion won (\$46 million) in investment in property under the names of Mr Roh's relatives. (Reuters)



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2. LONGEST WORD GAME. You can use any combination of the letters revealed this week on *The Sunday Times* Game 3 and *The Times* Game C to make the word FORESTALLED. If you succeed, ring the Scrabble hotline to make a claim for this week's £5,000 prize.

If more than one valid claim is made for a prize, the money will be shared equally among the claimants.

SCRABBLE GAME C PRIZE WINNERS

The £200 prize (WAGON) was shared by Mrs Eileen Wilkinson of Kilmarnock, Ayrshire and Mr Brian Lees of Cheshunt, Herts.

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# US Administration raids pension funds to stay in business

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration was forced to raid pension funds to prevent the country from defaulting yesterday as the government shutdown entered its second day with no resolution in sight.

Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, borrowed an initial \$41 billion (\$39 billion) from two government pension funds to forestall America's first-ever default. The Government had reached its congressionally-approved debt ceiling of \$4,900 billion and had no other way of paying \$25 billion due yesterday to holders of US securities.

"This is no way for a great nation to manage its financial affairs," Mr Rubin protested. But President Clinton seemed to be routing the Republicans in the battle for public opinion. "We are at an impasse," declared Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, after the collapse on Tuesday night of talks on temporary ways to fund the Government and keep it creditworthy while the White House and Republicans battle over the budgetary future.

Mr Panetta warned that the shutdown could continue next week. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was even gloomier. He said the two sides were not "an inch closer" and warned that the confrontation "could well last 90 days". The White House spoke

of "irreconcilable differences" and said no meetings were scheduled for yesterday.

A Gallup poll showed that 49 per cent of Americans blamed Republican congressional leaders for the debacle that has laid off 800,000 non-essential federal employees, while 26 per cent blamed Mr Clinton. The comparable figures in a poll on Tuesday for The Washington Post were 46 and 27 per cent.

As President, Mr Clinton possesses a much louder megaphone than the hydra-headed congressional leadership. He is exploiting the advantage to the full. Though careful always to reiterate his desire for a balanced budget, he portrays himself as the courageous defender of the social programmes Ameri-



Rubin: "This is no way for a nation to manage"

cans hold most dear, and the Republicans as ruthless, irresponsible extremists bent on destroying the country's social fabric.

"He's prepared to fight all winter on that line," said an aide. The polls demonstrate its potency. By 48 per cent to 38, respondents to yesterday's Gallup survey believed that protecting the popular Medicare health insurance programme for the elderly was more important than balancing the federal budget.

But the Republicans show no sign of capitulating. Mr Gingrich and his congressional cohorts believe if they break their promise, made during last year's congressional elections, of a balanced budget by 2002, they will be rejected in 1996 just as surely as President Bush was after he reneged on his "no new taxes" pledge.

The Republicans also contend that Mr Clinton's "demagoguery" will buy him only temporary popularity and that voters will come to realise that the long-term benefits of restoring sound national finances far outweigh the short-term pain of cuts.

The Republicans' role model is John Engler, the Michigan Governor, who saw his popularity plunge to 18 per cent when he slashed state spending but went on comfortably to win re-election.



Margalit Harsheli, right, handcuffed to a policewoman, arriving at court in Tel Aviv for a remand hearing yesterday

## Woman arrested over Rabin killing

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN PETAH TIKVA, TEL AVIV

A JEWISH woman, suspected of knowing about the right-wing plot that led to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, was charged in court yesterday and remanded in custody. Police said Margalit Harsheli, 20, played a central role in the murder of the Israeli Prime Minister, to sabotage the peace process with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and of plotting to attack Palestinian targets.

She has denied the charges. Her detention brings to eight the number of people held in connection with the assassination. She is a resident of the hardcore Jewish settlement of Beit El, and a law student at Bar Ilan religious university, where Yigal Amir, 25, the self-confessed killer of Rabin, also studied. Police investigating the case claimed that the killing was part of a well-organised conspiracy. They told the court that Ms Harsheli had been arrested soon after the assassination but was then released. She

was rearrested after new information had been received. President Weizman yesterday officially asked Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, to form a new government. In the Gaza Strip, security was tightened for Yasser Arafat after the discovery of a plot to assassinate the PLO chairman. News of the attempt was leaked yesterday after the arrests last week of up to five members of the Abu Nidal terrorist faction.

Leading article, page 21

## UN plea to stem flood of refugees

Geneva: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday appealed for a new preventive approach to the world's refugee crisis (Peter Capella writes).

Sadako Ogata, presenting her second report, said that the UNHCR is taking care of about 27 million refugees, nearly three times more than ten years ago. The report added that a growing number of people are being displaced by civil wars.

### Poll date set

Moscow: The Russian Federation Council has voted to hold the next presidential election on June 16, 1996. President Yeltsin recommended that a date be set to ease speculation that the poll might be postponed. (Reuters)

### Tamil vote delay

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Government postponed for a year local elections, scheduled for this week in the Tamil regions of the east and the north, after troops closed in on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna. (Reuters)

### Deadly binge

Moscow: Russian men drink on average half a bottle of vodka a day — about half a pint — experts at a conference on alcoholism said. They urged the Government to act to stop Russian men drinking themselves to death. (Reuters)

## Congress husband 'runs off with \$2m'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LESS than a year ago, Enid Waldholtz was a darling of the new Republican order. Her revolutionary conservatism had won her not only the admiration of Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, but a seat on one of the most powerful committees in Congress.

She had a new husband, a baby on the way and a glittering future as a self-styled private citizen "on temporary assignment" in Washington. All that changed yesterday after the Utah politician filed for divorce, and launched a blistering attack on Joseph, the husband she said had vanished last Saturday and is suspected of taking \$2 million (£1.3 million) from their joint bank account.

Mrs Waldholtz, 37, a Mormon, said: "I want this man tracked down, arrested and punished for what he has done to me, my family and the people of Utah." Mr Waldholtz, 32, who worked as a

volunteer in her office, was last seen at Washington National Airport and was thought to be heading for Canada. The Justice Department said it had not issued an arrest warrant as there was no certainty he had broken the law.

The inquiry has opened a political can of worms for Mrs Waldholtz, whose spending of \$1.8 million in personal funds to win her Salt Lake City seat last year has been the subject of increasing controversy. A former corporate lawyer, Mrs Waldholtz first claimed most of the money was her own, then said the funds came from a swap of assets between Mr Waldholtz and her father.

Even if Mr Waldholtz has absconded with the \$2 million, this may not be deemed to be a crime if the money was in a joint account. What would be illegal, however, is if someone other than the candidate had contributed more than \$1,000 to her campaign.

## Computers blow horn on cabbies

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

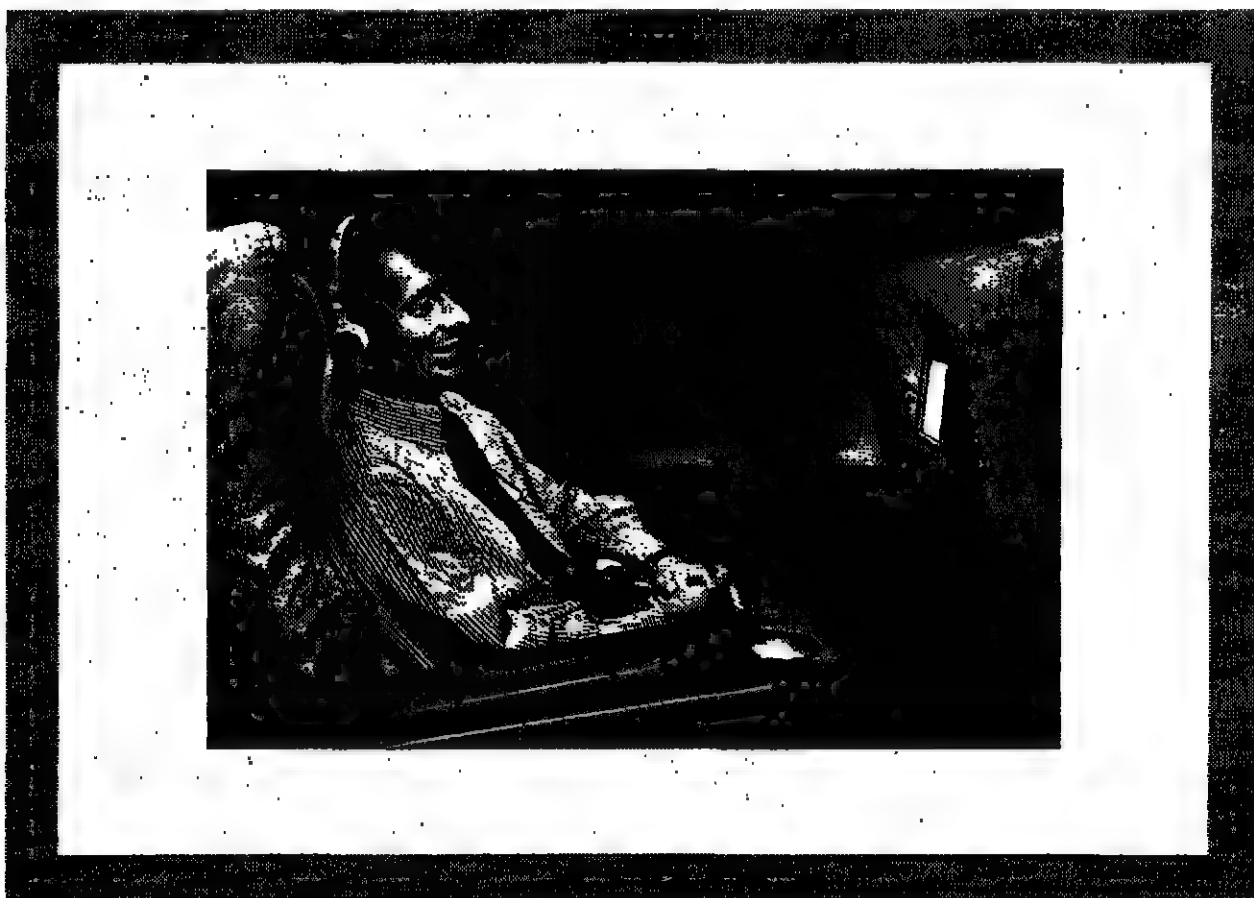
MORE than a tenth of New York's cabbies do not have driving licences. Police made the discovery after marauding their computer records to the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission.

The revelation, though disquieting, may not surprise visitors who have hurried down Manhattan's avenues in the back of a yellow cab.

The invariably ill-shaven drivers, who often do not speak English, have a mulish disregard for traffic regulations and lane discipline. Many cab bumpers bear the marks of collisions, and passengers are advised to hang on to the door straps.

The commission has ordered the 1,582 cabbies without driving licences to surrender their cab permits. The move may create a temporary taxi shortage, but has been welcomed by law-abiding drivers.

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# Santer warns EU to resist resurgence of 1930s nationalism

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE must resist the lure of 1930s-style nationalism and take a bold step forward at next year's conference to re-vamp the Maastricht treaty, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said yesterday.

Mr Santer was responding, in a "state of the Union" speech, to concern on the Continent that the European ship risks drifting onto the rocks thanks largely to British resistance, French nationalism and German muscle-flexing over monetary union.

Too many countries seemed to want to go it alone in a nationalist free-for-all, he told the European Parliament. "Let us forget these ghosts from the 1930s," he declared. The inter-governmental conference (IGC), to review the Maastricht treaty next year, was in danger of adopting a "too minimalist" agenda that could paralyse the Union when it was enlarged to include states in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mr Santer said he was worried that some member states "refuse to accept that European union has been and remains a political aim. The Union is not a supermarket where everyone can pick what he feels like."

The 1930s image was invoked more sharply by Klaus Hahn, the German presi-

dent of the European Parliament. "Let us be under no illusions: the new nationalism which despises, or even seeks to destroy, what we have been able to create in the last 50 years in Western Europe will take us straight back to the 1930s," he said. His comments spoke for the growing sense in the parliament that it will win few if any more powers in the Maastricht review.

The bleak talk, also echoed in a speech by Felipe Gonzalez, the federal-minded Prime Minister of Spain, which currently is the Union president, reflected worries among guardians of the Euro-flame that the IGC will produce a modest brush-up along the lines favoured by Britain. Compounding their gloom are



Santer: bleak "state of the Union" address

the almost daily calls from Germany for tougher terms which seem destined to put monetary union, scheduled for launch in 1999, out of reach for many would-be members.

For the Germans, the Brussels Commission and their federal-minded allies, the most telling snapshot of the confusion over the IGC comes from a report nearing completion by the team of senior officials entrusted with mapping the road to reform. Instead of drafting an agenda, the Reflection Group has appalled the federalists and pleased Britain by coming up with a long-winded list of options, repeatedly stating that there was no consensus on any of them.

The draft will be refined before the Madrid summit next month but it makes clear that there is little stomach for a radical overhaul of European institutions in the run-up to enlargement.

The voice of Britain, represented by David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister, comes through repeatedly in opposition to any moves to apply majority voting to the key areas of foreign and security policy and home and legal affairs. Britain, it notes, stands alone in refusing to contemplate any extension of the European Parliament's powers.

## Bonn to sell single currency

Bonn: The German Government is to launch a multi-million mark propaganda campaign to sell European monetary union to a sceptical nation (Roger Boyes writes).

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is compiling a book, with contributions from Bundesbank directors, outlining the merits of a European currency. The book forms part of the "information crusade" that will begin in January. Brochures and pamphlets are

to be distributed and the plans include a television advertising campaign.

Details of the plan were leaked just as Klaus Hahn, the president of the European Parliament, appealed to all European governments to persuade their citizens more energetically of the need for EMU. "Monetary union will not fail because of criticism from its opponents, but because its supporters do not sufficiently explain, defend or realise their

ideas," Herr Hahn told the Strasbourg parliament.

A senior Bonn politician concerned with monetary union shrugged off opinion polls showing a constant two-thirds opposition to abandoning the mark. "If you asked Germans about forming a national army in the 1930s, you would have got a similar response... but that doesn't mean we shouldn't go ahead. It's a question of political leadership."



A Masai herdsman near Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, with one of his camels, which are being substituted for cows in the region because they are better able to survive droughts and cause less damage to the environment

## Toy boycott plea by Chinese dissident

BY OLIVER AUGUST

HARRY WU, the Chinese dissident, is appealing to British consumers not to buy Chinese Christmas toys because they are made by slave labourers.

"The British should not buy Christmas lights or Christmas toys for their kids made with Chinese blood and tears. The British people should not take it. You violate your own principles," he said.

Mr Wu is in London to receive the 1995 Anti-Slavery Award from Anti-Slavery International, a human rights organisation, for his work in trying to expose Chinese labour camps. He has returned to China several times, risking his life, and has filmed the camps for the BBC.

He spent 19 years in Chi-

nese labour camps where he was one of eight million prisoners, ranging from common criminals to political dissidents. He alleges that many of China's export products, including Christmas gifts, are manufactured by these prisoners under life-threatening conditions.

The import of goods made by slaves is not allowed under British law, but due to China's secretiveness it is almost impossible to establish how goods are produced.

Mr Wu became an American citizen after his release in 1985 and is now campaigning against what he calls the "Chinese gulags". He said yesterday that he may go back to China as part of his campaign.

## Clinton renews plea for Bosnia mission

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday made his strongest and most detailed appeal to Congress for the need to send up to 20,000 American troops to enforce an eventual peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said, however, that he could not predict how many casualties America might suffer.

In a nine-page letter to Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, Mr Clinton said American participation in a Nato peace-keeping operation would cost as much as \$1.5 billion (£967 million) for one year. He estimated that the United States would need to spend a further \$600 million over several years to rebuild Bosnia.

Mr Clinton hoped to confound Republican critics of his

Bosnian policy who have argued strenuously that America has no vital interests in the Balkans and should not risk its soldiers.

"There will be no peace without America's engagement," he said. "If we turn our backs on this responsibility, the damage to America's ability to lead, not just in Nato but in pursuit around the world of our interests in peace and prosperity, would be profound... It is not possible to make meaningful casualty predictions."

The message came after Mr Gingrich and Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, had written to the White House, saying support for an American deployment in the Balkans was "virtually nil".

## Prisoners take over Athens jail

Athens: Hundreds of rampaging prisoners, including many foreigners, seized Athens's top security jail and were holding six staff hostage, police said yesterday.

Riot police surrounded Korydallos prison after prisoners rioted through the night, lighting fires, ransacking facilities and raiding the hospital for drugs.

Their demands ranged from better food to less overcrowding. The prison, built for 400, now houses more than 1,500. (Reuters)

## Murder claim

Cairo: A previously unknown group calling itself the International Justice Group said it shot an Egyptian diplomat, Ahmed Alaa Nazmi, who was killed on Monday in Geneva. (Reuters)

## Nuclear plea

The Hague: Britain and America urged the International Court of Justice to reject a request from the United Nations General Assembly for a ruling on the legal status of nuclear weapons. (Reuters)

## Visas stopped

Hong Kong: China said it would no longer issue on-the-spot visas to Britons crossing into Shenzhen. Eight Britons were detained and fined £41 each this week after they asked for instant visas. (AFP)

## Warplane found

Canberra: An Australian Bristol Beaufighter with the remains of two crewmen, has been found in jungle in Papua New Guinea. It disappeared during the Second World War. (Reuters)

## Running battle

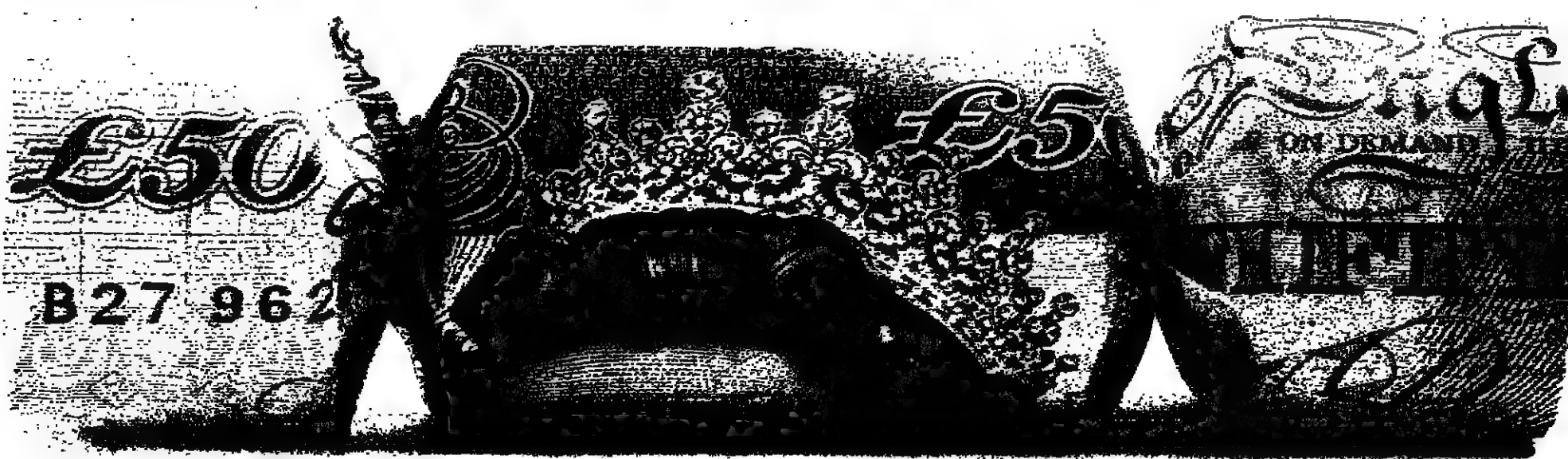
Peking: A worker locked overnight by mistake in a freezer room escaped death by spending the whole night running, a news agency reported. He is recovering with severely frost-bitten hands and feet. (AFP)

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# France hopes spending cuts will reduce deficit in time for European monetary union

## Juppé unveils plans for radical reform of welfare system

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government unveiled radical plans for reforming the country's debt-burdened welfare system yesterday, including a new tax and an alteration in the constitution allowing parliament to set an annual ceiling on social security spending.

The raft of reforms, unveiled by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, in parliament yesterday, represents the latest and most drastic effort by the Government to slash public expenditure and reduce France's deficit in time for European monetary union. With an overwhelming centre-right majority, the Government was expected to win a vote of confidence last night despite earlier criticisms from within the ruling coalition and widespread union resentment.

The central plank of the Juppé welfare plan is a new income tax of 0.5 per cent to be levied on all but France's poorest citizens. The tax will be used to pay off the accumulated welfare deficit of 230 billion francs (£30 billion) over the next 13 years, M Juppé said. The new levy will apply to interest on savings and unemployment pay, which are currently exempt, as well as salaries and unearned income, while the existing welfare tax will be widened to cover almost all forms of income.

France's unwieldy and costly welfare system covers healthcare, state pensions and family allowances. There is currently no fixed limit on health spending and M Juppé said yesterday that the Government would seek constitutional amendments next year to give parliament the power to set an annual social security budget. The Prime Minister described the constitutional changes as "the keystone of reform" that will shape French social security for the next half century. The existing health-care arrangements, a complex and overlapping system of 19 different health plans, will be "drastically simplified" to create a single system, the Prime Minister said. Under the new system, all foreigners will be expected to pay for hospital treatment in advance in all but emergency cases.

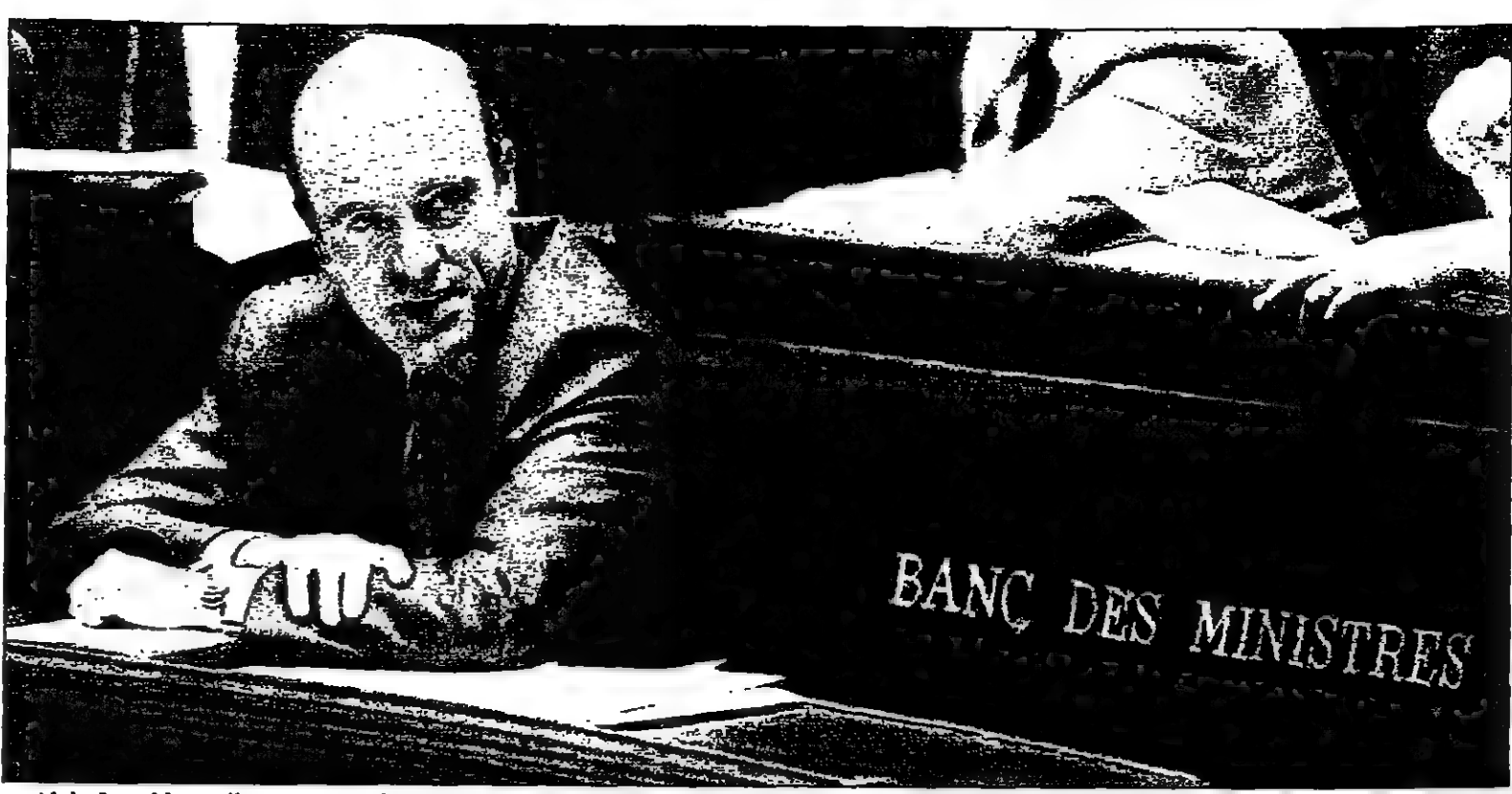
M Juppé has threatened to dissolve the Government if reforms are not approved and he has insisted that he will push through the most urgent changes by decree rather than wait for legislation.

A new welfare benefit for elderly invalids, due to come into force next January and one of President Chirac's campaign pledges, will be postponed, M Juppé said, while generous family allowances will be taxed for the first time from 1997.

As a result of the reforms, the Prime Minister predicted, the annual social security deficit, more than 60 billion francs this year, would be slashed to 17 billion francs next year and produce a surplus by 1997. M Juppé also outlined a new system of keeping records to limit the number of times a patient can visit a doctor. Currently, most French people can see as many doctors as they want, as often as they wish.

Under the new plan, before qualifying for a full state pension, civil servants would be required to work for 40 years, rather than 37½ years, to bring them into line with the private sector — a measure that will further enrage the government employees, already angered by a planned pay freeze.

Yesterday's call for a vote of confidence and the declaration that crucial changes would be pushed through by government decree show how far M Juppé has come from promises to reform welfare through consensus. Some unions have called for a one-day strike on November 28 in opposition to welfare reform.



Alain Juppé in parliament yesterday where he announced plans to cut spending, including delaying a benefit promised by President Chirac

### Artist delivers a nuclear warning

Vienna: Hermann Nitsch, an Austrian artist, slung 50 gallons of pigs' blood at a giant canvas outside the French Embassy here to protest at the country's nuclear tests. Nitsch, 57, finished by tipping leftover blood onto the pavement along with a tub of dead fish. (AFP)

### Paris team sweat it out in Bali

Paris: On the day that Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, announced plans to overhaul France's welfare system, 120 French social security administrators were enjoying an all-expenses-paid conference on the Indonesian island of Bali (Ben Macintyre writes).

Newspapers and politicians have objected to the size of the contingent, citing this as further proof of extravagance in the French welfare system.

About 100 countries are represented at the annual International Association for Social Security meeting, but the French delegation is by far the largest. Germany sent 25 delegates, and America seven. Britain has just two.

The cost of the trip has been estimated at 11,235 francs (£1,500) per person. About 20 delegates took spouses along at their own expense, while others arrived days early.

"We're working like dogs," Michael Gautrey, an organiser, said. Many were unconvinced. While freezing rain fell on Paris, the temperature in Bali was 30C (86F).

### Spaniard tipped as head of Nato

BY GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR

CONFUSION persisted last night over the search for a new Nato Secretary-General amid speculation that Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, might run for the job.

Señor Solana, a cerebral politician educated in Britain and America, would be the Western alliance's first Spanish head. Madrid has not put him forward as an official candidate, but Felipe González, the Prime Minister, said yesterday he would be "magnificent". Señor Solana is a likely successor to Señor González as leader of the Socialist Party and may prefer to stay in politics. But his political future might be confined as the Socialists seem certain to lose next year's election.

A British official said Señor Solana had "all the necessary qualities" for the Nato post and that his transatlantic interests would be an asset. Other Nato diplomats said that Spain's semi-detached position in the alliance's integrated military command would not be an obstacle.

The attitude of Washington, which has already vetoed a Dutch candidate, Ruud Lubbers, backed by Britain, Germany and France, will be pivotal if Señor Solana is willing to be considered. Robert Hunter, the US Ambassador to Nato, yesterday paid tribute to his qualities but emphasised that America had no official view on a man who was not a declared candidate.

The only declared runner remains Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, Denmark's former Foreign Minister, but he appears vulnerable to a French veto.

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Reading between the ageing lines □ Why anaemia always deserves investigation □ A breakthrough for glaucoma sufferers



THE TIME when lines were thought to add interest, charm and a bit of character to the face has long since passed. The aim now is to have a cherubic complexion, as line-free as possible and redolent of youthfulness.

Various creams and lotions can be applied to the complexion so that the skin's outer horny layers are shed, the fresher deeper layers are exposed, and the lines disappear, making the patient look younger. Most of the simple compounds contain salicylic acid and/or alpha hydroxy acid. Dermatologists are divided as to the wisdom of using them.

Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, and an expert on dermatitis, says: "These creams cause a straightforward peel. There is an irritant effect which in some cases may lead on to an irritant dermatitis. Patients should be told of this possibility and also warned that the long-term effect of constantly

## Facing up to face creams

removing the outer layer of the skin, particularly in relation to sun exposure, is unknown."

More sophisticated creams and gels contain vitamin A derivatives. These are much more complex in their action and are useful in dealing with acneiform skin. They are claimed to increase the blood flow to the skin, improve the collagen content and lead to the development of a finer, thicker skin with fewer lines; but these too can cause an irritant dermatitis.

Professor Nicholas Lowe, an



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

simple peel. Whatever the cream chosen, daily sunscreens should be used in conjunction with them.

The vitamin A derivative

isotretinoin is supposedly less likely to cause irritation than tretinoin, but the difference may be marginal.

Doctors and patients have to be on the alert for severe skin irritation, and even when using simpler compounds it is as well to alternate their use with skin moisturisers.

## Pale rider

FORTY years ago no medical consultation was complete without the patient being asked to put out his tongue, and most doctors would also ask to look at the fingernails, the palms of the hands and would pull down the lower eyelid so as to judge the colour of the conjunctiva. These tests are all designed to detect anaemia but, in fact, are of doubtful accuracy.

Now that first clinical impressions can be cross-checked against scientific data from the laboratory it is shaming how often it trans-

pires that the pallid patient has a normal blood count, and the apparently ruddy-faced countryman is anaemic.

The condition may be caused by a deficiency of folic acid or vitamin B12, damage or failure of the bone marrow, or may be associated with renal disease and other chronic conditions ranging from rheumatoid arthritis to malignancies.

The largest single group of anaemias are those linked to iron deficiency, and these are the ones most likely to cause a diagnostic problem in the surgery.

In spite of the laboratory's role, the old clinical signs of anaemia are still of interest: the conjunctiva is often pale, and there is glossitis, inflammation of the tongue, which appears pallid and sore; the corners of the mouth are also often cracked; the fingernails show koilonychia, a condition in which the nail is flattened, even spoon-shaped, and ridged and cracked; the skin of the hand is flaky and the palms are pale.

Patients who are anaemic complain that they are listless and tired, they may be breathless and, if the anaemia is gross, their

ankles swell. Swallowing can become difficult.

Iron-deficiency anaemia can be due to a protein-depleted diet or an underlying disease. Tests may reveal nothing more sinister than piles or chronic diverticulosis, a hiatus hernia, chronic gastritis or inflammation of the gut, but they can show gastric or duodenal ulcers or even a hidden malignancy.

One thing is certain about iron-deficiency anaemia: it deserves investigation before it is blindly treated with iron tablets.

## Visionary

THE treatment of glaucoma — loss of vision associated with a rise in pressure in the eye — has been revolutionised by the introduction of eye drops containing betablockers.

Timolol, the betablocker most often used, can occasionally have side-effects, including severe asthma in patients who have a history

of allergies. Even when the patient has no history of asthma, and any spasm in the bronchial tubes is not so severe as to require beta-blockers as to be conscious of wheezing, detailed tests show that about 15 per cent of all patients is lost in a quarter of all patients. Other patients using non-cardioselective betablockers have noticed a poor peripheral circulation, including cold hands and feet. If they suffer from heart failure, the situation may be made worse.

Cardioselective betablocker drops, such as betaxolol, are safer, but care is still advised.

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, which reduce the amount of fluid produced in the eye, have been a possible answer for glaucoma for some time, but only recently has one, dorzolamide (Trusopt), which is both potent and apparently free of side-effects, been introduced.

Trusopt can be used in conjunction with betablocker drops, or instead of them if they cannot be used because of the risk of serious side-effects in those patients with allergies or heart failure.

Dr James Le Fanu talks to a fellow GP about the paralysis which suddenly afflicted him

## 'I will never forget the day I walked again'

It may not be a lot of fun lying flat on your back in hospital unable to move a muscle below the neck,

but as 40-year-old Laurence Knott reflected soon after his admission to the Royal Free Hospital in London, things could be a lot worse. Certainly he found it a nuisance that he was unable to feed himself, and humiliating to require nursing assistance for basic physical needs, but at least his diagnosis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, is one of the few catastrophic neurological illnesses that tend, eventually, to get better of their own accord.

His phlegmatic reasoning was no doubt helped by the fact that he is a family doctor in Enfield, north London. The first sign something might be wrong came when visiting a patient after morning surgery. "By the time I got to her room, I was more breathless than she was," he recalls. "We made a sorry picture, she wheezing on one side of the bed, me gasping on the other."

As soon as he got home he made straight for his medical textbooks. "There seemed to be only one condition that fitted my symptoms of tingling in the hands and feet, breathlessness and difficulty in walking," Dr Knott rang the hospital and told the physician on duty that he had devel-

oped Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).

Guillain and Barré were two French physicians who in 1916 together described this syndrome of progressive ascending paralysis for the first time. The underlying problem is an acute inflammation of the motor and sensory nerves, which can be induced by a variety of causes including viral and bacterial illnesses. The commonest of these is campylobacter infection, which can be contracted by eating undercooked chicken or by drinking milk from bottles that magpies or jackdaws have pecked at. Since the eradication of polio, Guillain-Barré Syndrome has become the most feared cause of paralysis in the Western world.

The paralysis starts in the



Dr Knott diagnosed his own illness

hands and feet and then moves up slowly towards the neck. The main life-threatening complication is asphyxiation from paralysis of the respiratory muscles of the rib cage. About a quarter of patients need mechanical ventilation, sometimes for a month or longer, until the

power to breathe unaided returns. Most cases recover spontaneously over a period of two to three months but recovery may be speeded by a process called plasma exchange where the blood plasma is removed from the body and filtered to remove the antibodies that are attacking the nerves.

Alternatively, the results of a recent international trial co-ordinated by Professor Richard Hughes of Guy's Hospital, London, have shown that administering human immunoglobulin intravenously may be equally effective.

In Dr Knott's case it was decided to proceed with plasma exchange, but the first attempt almost killed him. "As the needle plunged into my chest, I suddenly felt as if

everything was getting further away," he remembers. "Someone said 'his blood pressure has gone down to zero'. Someone else shouted 'call the resuscitation team'."

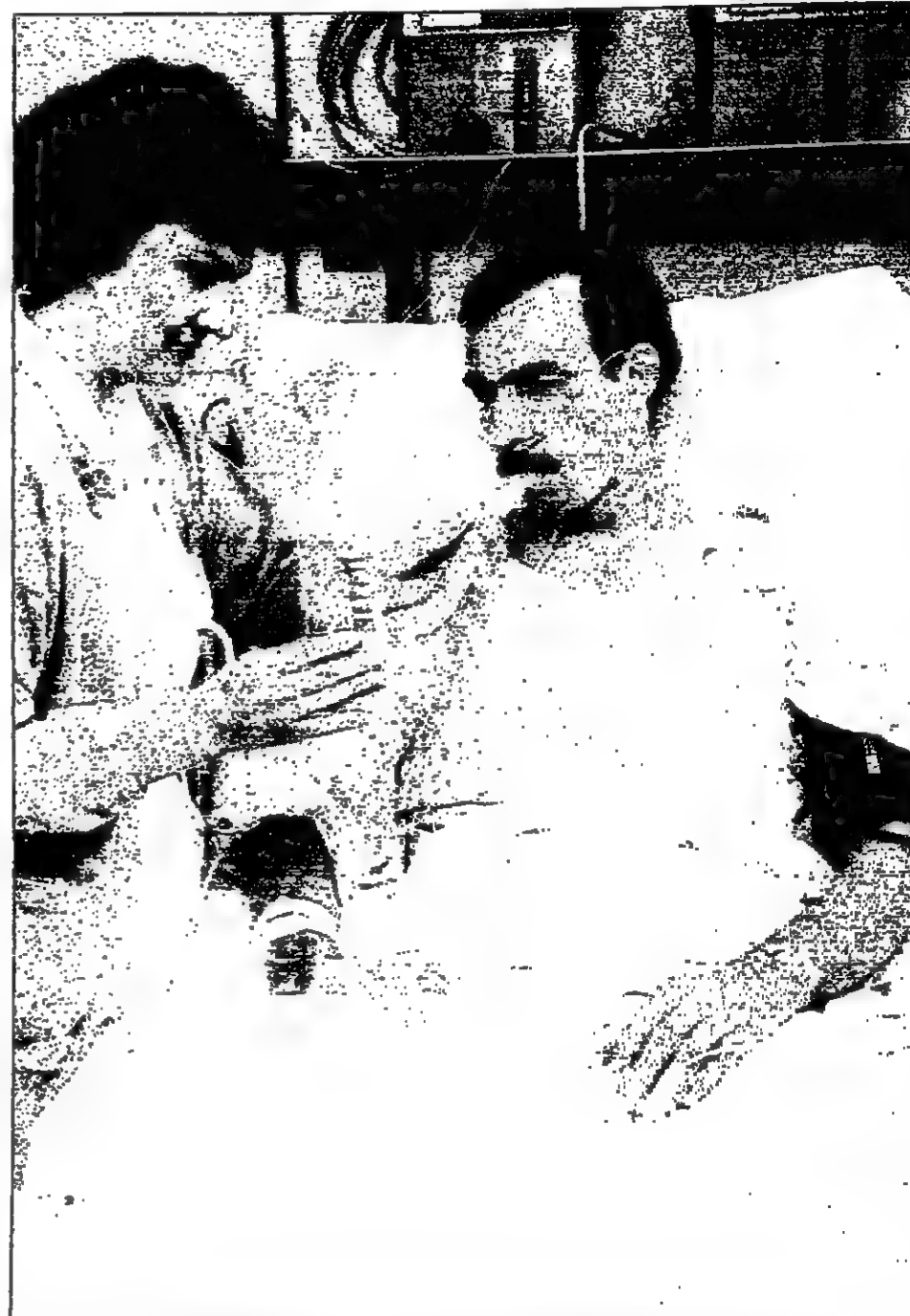
Dr Knott survived and after a short stay in the intensive care unit he returned to the general ward. But after his brush with death, his phlegmatic optimism had evaporated. "For the short period I thought I was going to die, I consoled myself with the thought that I'd had my life, and that it had not been too bad," he says. "But when the crisis was over, I was overwhelmed by despair at the prospect of my continued dependency. I was assailed with morbid thoughts that perhaps I would be one of the unlucky few that did not recover, that perhaps I would be spending the rest of my life in a wheelchair. If I had had the strength or opportunity I would willingly have thrown myself under a bus."

After six weeks, right on cue, came the first signs of recovery. "It happened in the physiotherapy department when in response to the command 'move your legs', I looked down and amazingly saw the first flicker of movement in my feet," Dr Knott was transferred back to his local hospital, Chase Farm in Enfield. "I graduated from the wheelchair to walking with sticks and to this day I will never forget when I was able to get around on my own two feet again."

Dr Knott's prolonged convalescence at Chase Farm had another quite unexpected bonus in restoring his sense of medical vocation. He had a steady stream of visitors, patients from his practice who went out of their way to drop in to see him before going on to their outpatient appointments elsewhere in the hospital. "I realised then I was not just a technician sitting behind a desk signing prescriptions. I felt appreciated, almost loved. It was very moving."

Though the majority of those with GBS do, like Dr Knott, eventually make a full recovery, some 10 per cent are disabled, and for the unlucky 2 to 5 per cent the illness proves fatal. Professor Hughes emphasises that diagnosis must be made early and that it is highly desirable to be seen at a specialist centre, where the doctors are dealing with many cases. "The commonest misdiagnosis," he says, "is hysteria."

A successful outcome also depends on the quality of nursing and rehabilitation facilities.



A patient with Guillain-Barré Syndrome has his breathing monitored by a nurse. Paralysis of the respiratory muscles can lead to life-threatening asphyxiation and a quarter of patients will need mechanical ventilation sometimes for several months

As Dr Jeremy Rees of Guy's Hospital says: "Attention to detail and the mundane aspects of caring for a paralysed patient remain at the forefront of medical care." But above all Dr Rees emphasises the need "to maintain morale by continued reassurance that recovery is likely."

For Dr Knott there was another important lesson from his illness. "It renewed my respect for everyone with a chronic disease and their intellectual fortitude in facing each day with equanimity, despite the knowledge that they would never get any better."

● Guillain-Barré Support Group, c/o Lincolnshire County Council, Eastgate, Skegby, Lincs NG34 7EB. Tel: 01529 304615.

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Glenys Kinnock tells Valerie Grove about her new slimline life in Brussels



Glenys Kinnock notes Cherie Blair's intention to pursue her own career from No 10: "There's a generation difference between us in that way"

# In the shadow of Cherie

When Glenys Kinnock delivered her recent Fawcett Library Lecture, nobody dreamt of introducing her as "the wife of the former Labour leader". In this centre of feminist history a woman speaks in her own right, and Brussels has given Mrs Kinnock, MEP, a status of her own. (Yesterday it was Mrs Kinnock's voice we heard exhorting the EU to introduce sanctions against Nigeria.) Brussels has also given her a new figure. Though already trim she has lost an amazing two stone, just by pounding the corridors of the European Parliament building.

Hers sounds to me an unrelenting life of endless flight, often on Manx Air propelled planes, between Brussels and Cardiff. At Heathrow that day, she had spent ten minutes trying to remember where she'd left her Ford Granada. Every fourth week she takes to Strasbourg, "a pain in the neck, with trunks of papers and researchers but without your computer — an inefficient, ridiculous and unnecessary way of working".

Dame Millicent Fawcett, suffragist pioneer and wife of a Radical MP, would have been fascinated to hear Mrs Kinnock examining how far the March of the Women has gone. Twenty-five per cent of MEPs are women, making Brussels a far more congenial Parliament than Westminster ("no yah-booming at each other across the floor", says Mrs K) and in the women's group the British Members, Labour and Tory, work together, often in agreement and equally critical of developments in Britain.

But even Brussels compares unfavourably with Denmark. Mrs Kinnock's son Stephen, a busy Eurocrat, is about to marry a Dane who works in

the Danish Parliament whose 50:50 equal sexual representation, Glenys points out, is the envy of the world. Even South Africa has a 25 per cent female Parliament: its woman Speaker told Glenys recently: "We would rather emulate the Nordic nations than the US or the UK. At 25 per cent we are only halfway there."

Glenys Kinnock never aspired to Parliament herself while leader's wife, but she was ahead of her time. Her fierce wifely devotion was beyond question (*Stand By Your Man* was one of her Desert Island Discs), as was the political dedication nurtured by her father, a railwayman and union activist. She always looked terrific, she was at ease with people: no other party leader's spouse could boast her experience of helping children with learning difficulties in Neasden. But she always seemed to be up against the British antipathy to female spouses with attitude. Because she was not a mouse she was assumed to be the bossyboots and she was constantly imagined to be the power behind the throne, rather than just an intelligent partner. But that was before the arrival of Hillary — and Cherie.

Now she observes her successor planning to carry on with her own work from No 10 with an assurance that Glenys would never have been permitted. "Oh, absolutely. There is a complete generation difference between us in that way. I'm sure Cherie will continue to practise, and combine the two. And the children will go to school from there."

There would certainly have been no embarrassment over the Kinnock children's schooling: it would have been Pimlico Comprehensive for them. Mrs Kinnock thinks the party has successfully weathered the storm over the Blairs' school decision, but she knows it was wounding, and will be a key election issue. She also points out that the Blunkett initiative on homework could operate realistically only if schools make supervised after-school provision for children in disadvantaged homes. As for "a laptop for every child", Mrs Kinnock, a passionate authority on teaching children to read, is still keener on books: she always said that without mastery of language no child can move forward to technological skills.

"In the kind of literacy I want to see, there is no substitute for losing yourself in a book," she says (currently lost, herself, in the new Vera Britain biography). Stephen, Cambridge graduate, is reading Dostoevsky. Rachel, media studies graduate, has asked her mother for a box of books for her birthday. "So I'm going to have a lovely afternoon in a bookshop, starting with Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*."

She looked back on the 20 years of the Sex Discrimination Act, which arrived with Rachel's birth. "It was a great joy to have a daughter, with whom I could share my hopes, my values, my aspirations, my rights, my newly dry-cleaned silk shirts..." Before that, there was overt discrimination, sexist advertising, no statutory maternity leave. Now Rachel starts work as a

production assistant and her mother is struck by her "confidence and audacity".

But she also sees, in her South Wales constituency, the macho culture of the Valleys being turned on its head, with women now half the workforce while unemployed former miners trail buggies round the supermarket.

How to get more women interested in politics? Not even the Labour Party's positive discrimination can overcome the fact that no man ever complains about the difficulty of combining a career with fatherhood. She is very aware of how many women Labour MPs are childless.

"Women are accused of being apathetic and apolitical, but they may be just knackered by family, home and job." She sees women active in local initiatives — women's refuges, community projects on hillside estates. "But women, and young people like Rachel, just don't want to come to branch meetings to be trapped in a room for hours arguing about wheele bins. That's such a switch-off. I get very frustrated by it myself. We ought to be involving them with campaigns, something that gets them out on the street, identifying what people's concerns are."

Because she was no mouse she was seen as the bossyboots

about wheele bins. That's such a switch-off. I get very frustrated by it myself. We ought to be involving them with campaigns, something that gets them out on the street, identifying what people's concerns are."

Her husband was that day in Finland. "He loves his portfolio. Having always been criticised as someone who didn't pay attention to detail, he enjoys the minutiae of shipping, aeroplanes, roads, the trans-European network." Mrs Kinnock still travels the Third World: she was in Sudan this summer with the Tory Lord Plumb, deciding that the EU should continue to refuse aid

## To be or not to be sued, that is the question

Quentin Letts reports from New York on the legal slings and arrows over the origins of *Hamlet*

Hollywood attorneys reckon they have seen most foibles of the creative world, but when Mike Doyen sat down this summer to examine a new case he did a double-take worthy of Oliver Hardy. This was showbusiness, all right, but surely on the mouldy side. It concerned that 1601 box-office hit, *Hamlet*.

Doyen read late that night as he familiarised himself with the bizarre paperwork of *Sohmer v McGrail*. It was a case of two former friends going to law over Shakespearean literary criticism. A Hollywood mogul was suing a young scholar over the provenance of a questionable theory about the meaning of *Hamlet*.

Steve Sohmer is a big hunter in Tinseltown. He used to be head of Columbia Pictures and now runs an independent production company which makes films for television and the big screen. He has a PhD from Oxford and is a voracious Shakespearean. When he wants to feel closer to the Bard he spends time at his large Cotswolds house near Stratford-upon-Avon.

His legal opponent, Mary Ann McGrail, is a 37-year-old scholar from Boston University who used to work with Mother Teresa in India. Six years ago, while teaching at Boston, Miss McGrail met and became friends with Mr Sohmer, a mature student.

while, thought she was on to something new by linking Shakespeare's plot to John Foxe's 16th-century martyrology *Actes and Monuments* and a biography of Luther by his friend, Philipp Melancthon.

Here things became messy. Mr Sohmer says he introduced Miss McGrail to Foxe and Melancthon. She says it was vice versa. When she proposed writing a book about her theory, he sent for the lawyers.

Mr Sohmer long ago learnt the Hollywood way of dealing with disputes. Once the attorneys were teed up he started the publicity campaign. Within hours of the disagreement he issued a press release in which he claimed to have discovered a "new, unrecognised source for *Hamlet*". He placed an article on *Hamlet* on the Internet and had his lawyers forbid Miss McGrail to discuss the play in public. In legal papers he claimed that the Luther theories were the intellectual property of Steve Sohmer Inc, his production company.

The McGrail camp moved more slowly, but was not inactive. One of her friends placed a well-aimed call to *The New Yorker* magazine, which has just published an article on the dispute.

The language became unscholarly, tears were shed, and there were hideous scenes at lawyers' offices. Mr Sohmer quoted the old saying that "a student who does not surpass his master falls his master" and claimed: "I was the one who was really conducting the seminar on *Hamlet*." *The New Yorker* judges that "in a sense [Sohmer] acted as if McGrail were a contract writer at his own back yard version of Columbia Pictures", but also carries his explanation that the fight is "a matter of principle".

After weeks of legal wrangling the dispute may now be reaching its epilogue. An agreement has been drafted which will allow both parties to publish their theories independently. Miss McGrail's lawyer, Mike Doyen, worked for nothing, but she has exhausted her life savings. Now, ironically, she may try to recoup her losses by selling the story of her experience to Hollywood.

Mr Doyen, having waded through countless 16th-century tracts and obscure volumes of literary criticism, can barely disguise his irritation when he says that this case "was very silly". He pleads: "Please do not take it as representative of American litigation."

Miss McGrail admitted that "what happened is ridiculous, but at least I have been vindicated", while Mr Sohmer is said to be assembling a new team of kindred Shakespeareans to pick over the bones of the Bard.



Hamlet: there's the rub

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# Let's hear what Diana has to say

The Princess of Wales has a right to tell her side of the story, says Libby Purves

"My Government," read the Queen without a flicker of visible stress, "will introduce legislation to reform the law governing divorce." You would not want to play poker against Her Majesty, who gave no clue at all of whatever she was thinking privately of the latest bad card dealt to her: the news that her daughter-in-law is taking over Monday's *Panorama* on BBC1 to "cover every stage of her life as the Princess of Wales."

Buckingham Palace press office, however, could not be trusted to win at poker. They primly said: "The Queen does not watch *Panorama* — full stop. In any case, the Queen and Prince Philip will be at the Royal Variety Performance that night." The intention was, no doubt, to sound lofty, but someone should have taken these media professionals aside and explained, very gently and with diagrams, that *Panorama* is generally considered a serious programme. The sort, in fact, which a responsible monarch might well watch, even on the video perhaps, when one got home from the delights of the Royal Variety Performance.

The reason to quote this is that this one arrogant statement from the Palace sums up the reasons why the Princess is doing the right thing. Someone has to cut through the thickets of pomposity, snobbery and bullying which surround our Queen. Someone must break the rule that they can only communicate with the outer world through coded photocalls and secret messages through "friends." The Prince of Wales did it with Jonathan Dimbleby, and now it is his wife's turn. She has things to say, and a right to say them: the Prince, with his ever-more apparent agenda of slowly introducing Camilla Parker Bowles into his public circle and pretending his wife does not exist, need not be left unchallenged.

It is to the Princess's credit that she has chosen for her interview a tough sober programme, and a young unknown news reporter who is unlikely to gush. Martin Bashir, after all, has a career to build and presumably does not want to dwindle into a royal-watcher; he is not likely to fall into the traps of obsequiousness or complicity. The Princess of Wales's strategy indicates that she wants to be taken as a serious woman.

Of course, it may fail. You would not guess it from yesterday's papers, but hardly anyone knows what Diana actually says. For all we know, it might be: "Frankly, I was mad as a brush for years. Charles did well to put up with me as long as he did and I wish him luck with Camilla. God Save the Queen." Or she might be liturately self-exonerating and blame everyone but herself. Or she might be more bitter than is decent. We shall have to see.

But I, for one, am glad that we will see. The Dimbleby-Wales interview came, above all, as a relief. We saw the man clearly at last, not concealed behind ghastly "friends" and even ghastlier "royal-watchers." We saw an anxious, tense, kind, naïvely romantic, potentially boring but well-meaning man, who is aware of the hash he made of his private life but still wants to serve. We looked at him and recognised him as real, and felt the warmer towards him.

Why should not his estranged wife do it too? She cannot forever remain a mass of contradictory legends, legends which reveal more about popular neuroses concerning women than they do about her. She has been cast in turn as simple girl betrayed, a starving captive, saintly mother, manipulative bitch and, most recently, marriage-wrecking siren. Weaving these tales has advanced the careers of countless journalists, authors. Meanwhile, we have heard nothing directly from her since the day when, aged 19, she murmured (inaccurately, as it turned out): "With Prince Charles by my side, I can't go wrong." Why not let her speak?

Criticism of this interview have been put with passion (jealous passion, mainly). One faction, led by Lord Deedes on Radio 4's *Today*, claims that the BBC "look advantage of a lonely and unhappy woman". Chivalrous, but patronising. This is Queen. Someone must break the rule that they can only communicate with the outer world through coded photocalls and secret messages through "friends."

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of the late Labour leader and premised in London next month. A *Live Flame* is based on the poems of John Keats, Robert Burns, Louis MacNeice, Robert Graves and in particular on *Inversnaid*, by Gerard Manley Hopkins, about the Loch Lomond town which was one of Smith's favourites. Appropriately, the concert will be played by London Music at St John's, Smith Square.

Why should the Princess of Wales have risked their contumely, and the dirty tricks they would have played to keep her off the air? If she wants a public life, if she wants to be our ambassador to the world, it will do no harm to see her talk frankly about her difficult royal career, and to see what perspective she has managed to put on it. It could stimulate a sensible discussion as to how we can best use her talents. It is an entirely reasonable thing to do. I hope she does it well.

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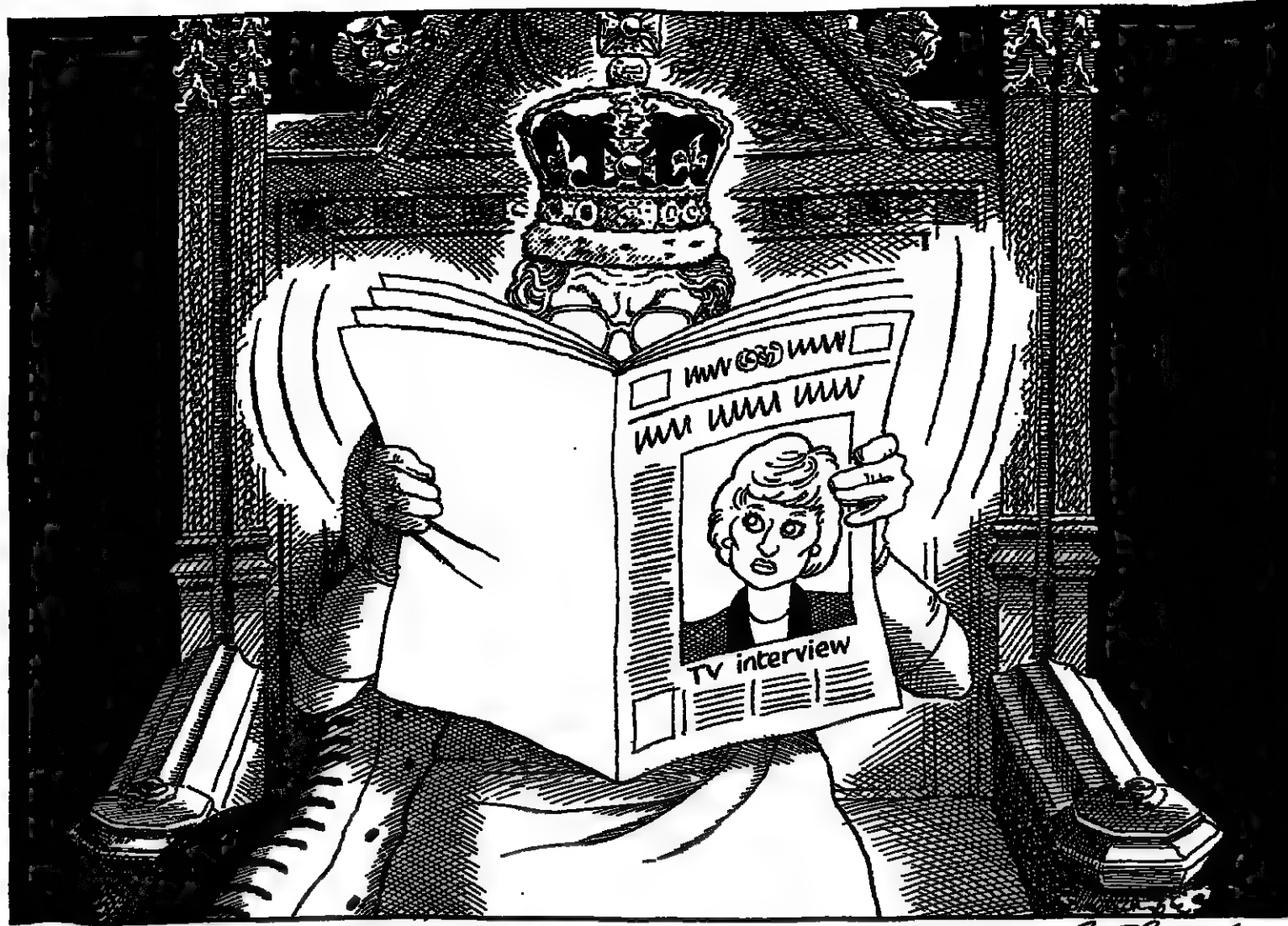
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THE QUEEN SPEECHLESS

## Diamonds aren't for ever

The language is a richer repository of wealth than a store of jewels

As a child I was much inebriated with strange and romantic words, which I collected like a magpie, and wrote down in my commonplace book. I looked through dictionaries to unearth them, and hoped to find a use for some of the rarer ones. Until now, in a lifetime of journalism, I have never found a use for the word "uliginose", which means "growing in muddy places", though, now I come to think of it, there has been no shortage of uliginose politicians in the past 30 years.

It was the poets, particularly those who shared the taste for gem-like words, who fed my collector's passion. My juvenile logo-mantra, Coleridge, I suppose, came first: "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree". Milton and Keats were not far behind, though "lucent syrups, dinct with cinnamon" was too saccharine even for my childish ear. I could not resist Christopher Marlowe: "Is it not passing brave to be a King, and ride in triumph through Persepolis?"

Somewhere in Boswell's *Life of Johnson* there is an anecdote of a discussion in front of a Spanish literary man, who had no English. He was asked to listen to the conversation of a group of English friends until he heard a word which struck him as particularly beautiful. He stopped the company at the word "cellar-door", and indeed if one were to write it as "Selador", it would sound like the secret name for a prince of Arabia. Words have a beauty or an ugliness which is independent to their meaning. Who cannot hear that "aloepecia" is beautiful, and "brunch" is ugly, without reference to their sense? Alopecia is one of the most beautiful words in the English language, though it derives from the Latin for "to mangle".

A recent event has produced a larger number of these collectible words than I can remember outside poetry. That is appropriate, because it was the sale by Sotheby's in Geneva of the Aga Khan jewels. The true logomaniac feeling for words has much in common with the collector's feeling for gem stones, though one cannot measure the beauty of words in carats or set them in Swiss francs. "Princess Salima, the Begum Aga Khan" — what name could be better than that? It is like the tuning-up notes when a nightingale starts to sing. It even has the Shakespearean device of including low humour to

accentuate beauty by a vulgar contrast. "Begum" is a comic word, much loved by the Lancashire comedians in my youth, when there still were Lancashire comedians. The Princess Salima seems to have gone through her life collecting romantic names, as well as diamonds. She is, of course, one of the few genuine beauties of my period, a match for Sarah Siddons and more than a match for Lily Langtry.

The Princess was born Sarah Croker-Poole, which makes sound like a good *Country Life* girl, not indeed a Cavendish, from a landed rather than an aristocratic family. Her father, according to Godfrey Barker in *The Daily Telegraph*, was a colonel in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

What a superb visual image that gives. One can see the colonel wheeling at the head of his troop, the lances above the horses' ears, the colours moving in the breeze, the stern Pathan faces, the horses shifting as they turn, the hot Indian sun, the watching crowds, the Victory taking the salute in the state brouche. One can hear the band playing the *Radecki* March, that light cavalry march which was played in Westminster Abbey as Princess Anne and Mark Phillips walked down the aisle. Beyond that, one can see the men and horses charging, horses falling, men dying, scarlet blood on scarlet coats, cannons belching smoke and shot from the head of the defile. "The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry" is the history of an empire in a single phrase.

Before she acquired the "Begum Blue" of 13.78 carats, which sold to Graff of Bond Street for £5.1 million — "a mere trifle for such a stone", as the 18th-century Mr Christie would have said — Miss Croker-Poole was first married to Lord James Crichton-Stuart. That is another romantic name. I can never remember who "the Admirable Crichton" was but such a character exists somewhere in English literature. Put James and Stuart together and you have the

most entertaining and imprudent of all the British dynasties. "James. Charles. Charles. James", as we used to remind ourselves at school, made a real hash of ruling Britain, but Charles II was surely the best company of all the British monarchs.

The Princess Salima was herself a famous model of the 1960s, but she was never a Sides person. She was photographed by Cecil Beaton and appeared in *Vogue* she did not belong either to the Beatles or the beatniks of the time. Her career was classical, like that of Barbara Goleen in the 1950s, rather than post-modernist, like that of Twiggy. One cannot imagine Twiggy marrying the Aga Khan, or, for that matter, the Aga Khan marrying Twiggy.

The jewellers have their own titles as well, the brand names of the empyrean, wherever that may be. "Van Cleef and Arpels" is a superbly rich-sounding name, like Ritz or Rockefeller. It may be awkward to fit into a rhyme scheme, or Cole Porter might have used it in the place of "Cartier". I think of them as Victorian partners in a secluded mahogany office, with little drawers for diamonds, sorted by colour and carat, for rubies, sapphires and so on. Van Cleef is a solid Dutchman, with a beard like W.G. Grace and a heavy gold watch-chain. Arpels is a lively Frenchman, a volatile flatterer from the court of Napoleon III, a ladies' man but, like Benjamin Disraeli, with a hint of the feminine in his personality. He smells faintly of patchouli.

Included in the Begum Aga Khan's collection was "a shimmering beaded fringe yellow diamond choker by Boucheron, sold for £407,000". Every word is poetry — "shimmering", it is true, is a word used only by minor poets; in serious literature it is only used ironically by P.G. Wodehouse. "Beaded fringe yellow diamond choker by Boucheron" is a fine rising crescendo. It turns on the word "choker". Who wears a choker nowadays? But they did in the years before the First World War, when duchesses

dined by candlelight and were painted by Sargent, a promising young American artist from Boston.

There is even a new character in the story, or at least one I had never heard of before. Godfrey Barker states that "a fringed necklace spray by Van Cleef and Arpels of hundreds of deep Burmese rubies set in diamond clusters sold for £202,300 to Sheikh Fiahi, the world's number one diamond buyer". Not since the press discovered Sir Basil Zaharoff, the world's number one armaments dealer, has there been so happy an invention. I look forward to pleasant years of reading in the gossip columns that "Sheikh Fiahi, the world's number one diamond buyer" is staying at the Palace Hotel, Casablanca, The Mandarin, Hong Kong, Raffles Hotel, Singapore, The Carlyle, New York, or other similar coaching inns for travelling diamond buyers. He will make offers for the Hope diamond to whomsoever has it at present — is it the Smithsonian? — or for the Pitt diamond to the Louvre.

The Pitt diamond is the most expensive ever bought. The French monarchy purchased it in the 1730s from the Pitt family; the purchase money financed the political career of William Pitt, the Prime Minister won the Seven Years War, and took India and Canada away from France. The price that France paid for the Pitt diamond was no less than the largest empire the world has ever known. Pitt's great uncle, the governor, had stolen it from some unfortunate Indian, and smuggled it in an ingeniously concealed cavity in his shoe heel.

Compared with words, diamonds are but blunt instruments, but human beings find in them the same qualities of symbolism and concentration, the same sharpness with which to cut. The Begum Blue itself symbolises a certain idea of beauty, but also the idea of wealth and power. Yet it is a prime symbol for the innate folly of human nature: what some person would rather have a bright blue pebble than a sum of money which would guarantee the wealth of a family for several lifetimes? Words of course are far more powerful: they reach into the innermost caves of the human mind. The love of diamonds we share with birds: the love of words we share with angels. Though Samuel Johnson thought the opposite, things are the sons of earth and words are the daughters of heaven.

## Splashing out

YORKSHIRE WATER has resorted to desperate measures to appease angry customers in the drought-stricken county. It is paying for them to go on holiday.

Weekend breaks at the seaside are being offered to residents of Pellon, a suburb of Halifax, who have had to withstand convoys of tankers trundling past their doors day and night to a water-treatment works.

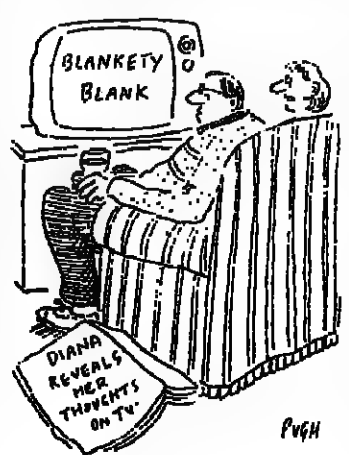
The disgruntled householders have been holidaying at Yorkshire Water's expense in such delightful resorts as Lytham St Annes and Whitby Bay. There have also been cash handouts of up to £100 per week but the water company is reluctant to discuss its compensation package. "Arrangements have been made with individuals who have had cause for complaint but the details are a private matter," says a spokesman.

Those who have benefited from the deals are, however, more forthcoming. One lady recently returned from a weekend in Lytham with her husband and two young children. Yorkshire Water, which is transferring 1.5 million gallons of water across the county in a fleet of more than 50 tankers,

picked up the hotel bill and paid for a hired car. "It was relaxing until the minute we came home," she said. "The tankers are like monsters. It's like having a hurricane rumbling through your house."

### Poetic tribute

JOHN SMITH is to be immortalised in music. A 20-minute work for solo tenor and orchestra by Keith Burstein is to be dedicated



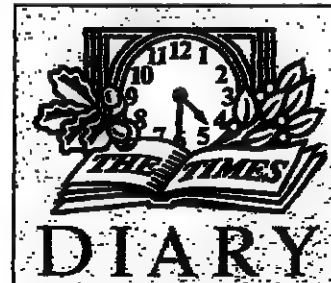
to the late Labour leader and premised in London next month. A *Live Flame* is based on the poems of John Keats, Robert Burns, Louis MacNeice, Robert Graves and in particular on *Inversnaid*, by Gerard Manley Hopkins, about the Loch Lomond town which was one of Smith's favourites. Appropriately, the concert will be played by London Music at St John's, Smith Square.

●An exhibit from a display of books by artists at the Tate Gallery has been stolen. The thief entered his name in the visitors' book with the comment: "I liked the exhibition so much that I kept the book." His booty is reportedly worth about £60.

### OOPPS

A SELECT number of Tory MPs has received an intriguing invitation from Spencer Batiste, the non-descript Conservative Member for Elmest. He implores its recipients to attend a dinner at the European Commission's office in London on November 29. "As you may know," writes Batiste grandly, "I act as PPS for Sir Leon Brittan and in this capacity am arranging a series of small dinners."

That any European Commissioner has a PPS will be a surprise



to Lord Tebbit. He recently asked Her Majesty's Government "whether there has been created a post of parliamentary private secretary to European Commissioners". Baroness Chalker's reply was unequivocal: "No".

Batiste is unabashed. "I'm not an official PPS," he says. "It's not a formal government role. I keep Sir Leon in touch with what's going on at Westminster. Former Prime Ministers do have PPSs."

### Death duties

THE FLORID-FACED chairman of Heinz, Tony O'Reilly, introduced his guest speaker at The Ireland Fund of Great Britain's annual luncheon yesterday as Albert Reynolds "the businessman".

Dr O'Reilly, who had just flown in from Boston, said that long be-

fore the former Taoiseach went into politics, he was an astute businessman who considered taxes to be "an optional extra". On one occasion, he said, a Revenue Commissioner spent four days examining Mr Reynolds's books in growing amazement. On the fourth day, the commissioner pronounced: "Mr Reynolds, you must pay your taxes... or we will follow you to your deathbed."

"Bejurers," replied Reynolds, "if they're prepared to wait that long, then they've got a deal."

●Jonathan Dimbleby, whose documentary on the Prince of Wales is said to have persuaded the Princess to bare her soul for *Panorama*, is being considered by the ITV network as anchorman for the general election. The BBC's election night maestro, David Dimbleby, is said to be appalled at the prospect of competing with his brother.

### Jet rockette

THE CHAMPION boxer Chris Eubank has shown intellectual leanings. Now Jet, a raven-haired star of *Gladiators*, is studying geology on a modular course at an unspecified establishment.

She let slip her interest in rocks when in Cambridge the other day to promote her appearance in



Jet in love with rocks

Aladdin. "Wow," she said after spotting a lump of limestone belonging to a geologically-minded undergraduate she encountered. "It's beautiful. I want it. I want that rock."

The university's geology faculty hopes it may have struck a seam — and discovered a latterday Zuleika Dobson for Cambridge.

P.H.S

## A speech to test Labour

The election starts here, says Peter Riddell

At the opening of the Queen's Speech debate yesterday, Douglas Hurd warded the Commons, in his most headmasterly way, about the dangers of the politics of "phony warfare" and "empty noise". John Major and Tony Blair then both justified his fears. They are like 18th-century generals manoeuvring for favourable ground ahead of the main battle. There is lots of noise, drumming and flag-waving. But these preliminary skirmishes do not really matter. Yesterday's speech was less about how Britain should be governed than about the Tory and Labour images. The Tories are seeking to claim the centre-right ground and to brand Labour as unreliable and left-wing. In return, Labour is repeating the refrain that the Tories have "lurching" to the right. Both claims are bogus.

The programme was like those at similar late stages of previous Parliaments, full of political symbolism but thin on substance. This is partly because most manifesto pledges have already been implemented in the first three years after an election. That is the time for big leaps forward. The last year or two of a Parliament is when a Government tries to avoid measures which will provoke resistance and divide its own parliament.

The aim is to highlight differences with the Opposition. In November 1986, for example, when Thatcherism was still at its height, the Queen's Speech contained Bills confiscating the assets of big-time criminals, abolishing domestic rates in Scotland, on compulsory competitive tendering of council services, consumer protection and strengthening the rights of private tenants. In November 1990, on the eve of the coup against Margaret Thatcher, the highlights of a short programme were described in *The Times* as "improving transport, tackling crime and boosting the family".

This all sounds familiar: yesterday's speech contained similar measures on crime, education and the like. There was even an echo of 1986. Then, the Queen's Speech included the original Bill authorising the building of the Channel Tunnel; now, it contains the return of the Bill allowing for the construction of the high-speed rail link from Folkestone to London. The programme is less radical than 1986, both because the Major Government is more managerial than crossing and because, with a single-figure Commons majority, it is more wary of risking a backbench revolt.

As Mr Major argued in the Commons, there is little in the detailed proposals to justify Labour's claims about a Tory "lurch" to the right. Half the Bills could easily have come from a Labour government, while with others, such as regulation of broadcasting and vouchers for nursery education, it is misleading to depict them in left-versus-right terms. Many on the free-market right have doubts about both these measures.

More significant than the substance is the tone. In a pre-election period, the Tories have always emphasised crime and immigration measures out of all proportion to their real significance in order to portray Labour as "soft". This is a sound electoral tactic. Labour is still vulnerable, particularly among some of its recent converts, on issues such as law and order and parental choice. Hence the Tories will seek to force Labour on to the defensive in Commons votes on the Bills on asylum-seekers, grant-maintained schools, nursery vouchers and disclosure of evidence in criminal trials.

Both main parties are depicting the other as extreme with themselves in the centre. Any party regarded as extreme does badly electorally. As MORI polls for *The Times* have shown, at the time of the 1983, 1987 and 1992 elections, many more people regarded Labour rather than the Tories as being extreme. But, now, more people view the Tories as extreme than Labour. Labour strategists have concluded from their market research that voters are hostile to a party with a right-wing image and hence they are trying to reinforce the Tories' current image, with assistance yesterday from Sir Julian Critchley's assault.

In this battle of images, the Queen's Speech is secondary to the Budget on November 28. More damage has been done to the Tories' standing by the tax increases and public spending squeezes of the past two years than by the main Bills of the period. Most Tory MPs are pinning their, increasingly slim, hopes for saving the next election on tax reductions rather than on yesterday's measures. Tory strategists believe this month's Budget needs to start such cuts in case an election has to be held next year, even though Mr Major does not want a contest before spring 1997, after a further tax-cutting Budget.

The aim will be to challenge Labour to oppose income tax cuts in the belief that it will be damned either way. If Labour votes against, it can be labelled a party of higher taxes, while if it supports tax cuts there will be no scope for it to promise higher public spending. The Budget will be the real political test, both for the Government and the Opposition.





## WAIT AND WATCH

The balance to be struck between Princess and Prince

The Princess of Wales has once again captured the imagination of the country. For four more days the speculators will do their best and worst. Few know what she has said although many, including her estranged husband, know what she might have said in the lengthy interview to be broadcast on BBC's *Panorama* next Monday. The Prince of Wales could scarcely have asked for a worse birthday present than the disclosure that his wife has decided to put her side of their story directly before the people. He must only hope now that the result will be not too bad for him. We hope too that it will be not too bad for her and for their children.

The battle lines are already drawn. The Princess, it is said, has already embarrassed her husband and captured the headlines too often. She is accused by the usual unattributable sources of having acted deceptively and against the interests of the nation and its first family. Blame is also hurled at the BBC for secretiveness in a matter which some have argued is beyond the normal business of a public service broadcaster. We would like to reserve our own judgment until the screening.

For more than three years, the heir to the throne and his wife have been engaged in this regrettable competition for the nation's sympathy. In 1992, the Princess was criticised for apparently co-operating with her sensationalist biographer, Andrew Morton. Last year, the Prince marched her indiscretion by admitting to infidelity in a BBC documentary, which was accompanied by Jonathan Dimbleby's supportive biography. More recently, the Prince has been seen in public with Camilla Parker Bowles at a mutual friend's party. He seems determined to habituate the nation to his relationship with her, even to her prospective suitability as a consort to the future King.

The Princess has her own quite separate agenda. She does not want to be seen as the villain of the piece. She also appears to have reversed her earlier decision to withdraw from public life and to wish once again to retain a prominent role in the life of the nation. It is important that she is allowed to find such a role — in charity if not in the solemnest ceremony.

It may be that she broke the rules of royal protocol by giving the *Panorama* interview without consulting the Palace. But whether that breach was in the national interest is not yet clear. It is to be hoped that her interview does not reveal a woman eager to take revenge on her husband and all he stands for. Whatever the rights and wrongs of his marriage, Prince Charles will one day be King. However aggrieved she may be, the Princess must do nothing to jeopardise his smooth accession or the institution of the monarchy. A measure of loyalty is still required of her, to her country if not to her husband. He, in turn, must accept her continued importance to the British people.

This interview will not be a matter of regret if the Princess has remained true to the roles she performed best. She is a persuasive ambassador for Britain's interests around the world, a defender of many worthy causes and an admirable mother to the young prince who will one day succeed her husband. She is perfectly entitled to speak of the personal grief that prompted her to reconsider her position in public life, the adversity she has faced, and the future she foresees. But there is a fine line that separates legitimate reflection from recrimination. The fewer revelations in Monday's programme, the better. What is clear is that sacrifice will be required of Prince and Princess alike if the best interests of the monarchy are to be served.

## DUCK AND WEAVE

New laws for an election campaign that is well underway

The Government will dot and cross, clean and tidy, duck and weave: and do little else of legislative substance from now until the next election. The Queen did not put it quite in those words. But the content of this four-year offering from her Government tells all.

Gone are those early years when legislation was the end product of a philosophy, the turning of a political vision into reality. Now the Government is engaged in a high-stakes game of wits with the benches opposite. To judge by yesterday's legislative programme, the new session will be one attempt after another to trap Labour into opposing measures that might be expected to win populist support.

This is manifestly in the interests of a Conservative Party more than 30 points behind in the polls. The benefits for the country are more mixed. Successful politicians marry the two interests so that their party is rewarded for confident and responsible governance. Growing fear of defeat and a long record of poor competence have made this happy combination beyond John Major's reach.

This Queen's Speech was designed to avoid intra-party divisions as well as to highlight divisions between the parties: the only contentious Bill among Tories, on divorce, has been promised a free vote. Mr Blair, growing in confidence at the dispatch box, was able to dismiss it as a "pathetic mouse" without much fear of aggressive Tory defence.

Mouse do tend to be rather pathetic late in a parliamentary term. Nor do bold mice necessarily benefit from boldness. The Bill to introduce the experiment of poll tax in

Scotland was passed in the last year of the 1983-87 Parliament. This time, the dramatic proposals are being held back for the Tory manifesto. The election campaign has begun. But this is only a penultimate Queen's Speech. If the Government goes to its full term, what will it offer next year?

Of this year's offerings, Labour will probably support the new Broadcasting Bill, the Reserve Forces Bill and much of the Housing Bill. The most acrimonious fights across the floor will be over education and asylum. The extension of nursery education is a popular and sensible policy: the proposals to introduce nursery education vouchers cleverly attach to it the Conservative principle of choice. Most parents will welcome the chance to send their four-year-old to a private nursery school at the State's expense. But Labour will probably feel compelled to vote against the Bill, as it will also feel obliged to oppose measures to allow grant-maintained schools to borrow for expansion, if all schools are not allowed to do so.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill promises to be the most contentious of this batch of legislation. The Prime Minister was adamant yesterday that a new law was necessary to curb an increase in bogus asylum-seekers. Yet such a law was passed only two years ago, with tough powers to restrict the rights of appeal of asylum-seekers. Why has this not proved sufficient? Mr Blair, quite reasonably, asked why simply speeding up the application process would not deal with the problem. It is a question which will be asked again. There is not much else new here to talk about.

## INSIDE ISRAEL

Shimon Peres must now deal firmly with the danger within

With the end of the official period of mourning for the murdered Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli politics has started to return to a little of its customary bustle. The wounds to society and nation, inflicted by the unaccustomed bullets of a Jewish extremist, may now always remain raw. But the purposefulness of Shimon Peres, the man who has inherited charge of a dazed Israel, has at least ensured that the country's trauma does not paralyse the hands of its elected peace-makers.

Mr Peres appears to have rejected the option of early elections, preferring instead to focus on the certitudes which Mr Rabin had striven to establish. Those are, first, a commitment to peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation of Yasser Arafat, on terms agreed in the Oslo accord and its concomitant pacts; and secondly, a pursuit of peace with other Arab states — immediate neighbours as well as those further afield — in order to change in the course of a generation the face of the Middle East.

In ensuring the early and uncomplicated departure of Israeli troops from Jenin, the first of the six major Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank from which Israel is pledged to withdraw, Mr Peres has sent to Mr Arafat an early indication of his good faith. The departure from Jenin also announced — as much to Mr Arafat as to Israeli opponents of peace — that while the death of Mr Rabin may have shaken the morale of the Israeli Government, it has not shaken its belief in political conciliation with its erstwhile Palestinian foes.

Mr Peres has begun, also, to address the most vocal source of Israel's growing civil

discord. The decision taken earlier in the week to restrict the entry into the Jewish state of Jewish extremists resident abroad, is perhaps the most radical measure ever directed at its "own people" by an Israeli Government. The measure may have come far too late, but it is still most welcome.

The move is astutely timed, given the widespread revulsion in Israel towards those who would — by their violent words and actions — seek to overturn the policies of peace for which Mr Rabin gave his life. That revulsion is now being channelled into a constructive affirmation of the rule of law: on Tuesday, scores of Jewish settlers were indicted on charges of violent agitation. These include such disreputable opponents of peace as Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron, Baruch Marzel and Itamar Ben-Gvir of the virulently anti-Arab group Eyal.

Mr Peres should also begin to disarm those settler communities with consistent records of violence against unarmed Palestinians — and whose members threaten to impede the Israeli withdrawal from towns on the West Bank. Mr Rabin, it is no secret, considered just such action in the aftermath of the massacre in Hebron last February; but Israeli public opinion, then less inured to the peace process than it is now, was thought not to be ready for a showdown with the armed Right. But now that an Israeli foe of peace has shot dead an elected Prime Minister, Israeli society should be more prepared than ever to support an assiduous crackdown on Jewish extremists. Mr Peres now has the perfect chance to prevent another bloody internal crisis. He must not waste the opportunity.

## Diplomacy and direct action in dealings with Nigeria

From the Director General of Survival International

Sir, Those who assert that human rights violations should be addressed by diplomacy and talk rather than positive action are, to say the least, naive. I have been involved in trying to protect the rights of oppressed people for 26 years and have never, not once, come across a case where "behind the scenes" talk, be it with governments, companies or development banks, has made one iota of difference.

The brutal murder of nine Ogoni by a Nigerian dictatorship to which other Commonwealth countries had "appealed" for clemency (leading articles, November 11 and 13) is a tragic illustration of the uselessness of the diplomatic approach. Several of those countries should have had enough sense to know this.

There are many tools available to governments: freezing assets and bank accounts, sanctions, withdrawal of diplomatic relations, vociferous protest at the UN (even — though perhaps least — expulsion from the Commonwealth) and so on. If governments really sought protection of innocent people's rights, they would bring all these to bear as soon as gross and persistent violations are proven, not only after an intellectual is handed.

I predict (always a dangerous game, of course) that the Nigerian dictatorship will not survive for long and that when it sent the Ogoni to the gallows it effectively placed a noose around its own neck. One tragedy is that it was not made to see this before the executions — it might have changed its mind.

Governments who claim that strong action against Nigeria could have made the situation even worse are wrong: that is another thing I have never seen in the last 26 years. Far from being an unusual example, Shell and the Nigerian Government's exploitation of Ogoni is actually the norm in many poor countries, and some rich ones.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN CORRY,  
Director General,  
Survival International,  
11-15 Emerald Street, WCI,  
November 13.

From Mr Imoro Abdulai Alhassan and others

Sir, Your leader of November 13, "Well-oiled tyranny: Words will never hurt Nigeria's military dictators", ad-

vocates precisely what needs to be done by politicians, international organisations and governments that care for the prevention of the impending conflict in Nigeria.

Unless drastic action is taken — such as the freezing of the assets of senior government officials, the stoppage of the importation of Nigerian oil, the expulsion of Nigeria from the Commonwealth, the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations, and the total withdrawal of diplomatic missions in Nigeria — the vicious military dictatorship will bring Nigeria to total self-destruction, as in Liberia, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The world needs to adopt similar tactics to those used by the opponents of apartheid before February 1990. Just as sanctions helped in the struggle against the white minority regime in South Africa, so comprehensive sanctions will help the democratic forces in Nigeria. We suggest that a boycott of Nigerian oil will be a sacrifice that Nigerians (like Black South Africans) will be prepared to pay for the elimination of despotism.

Without international action to dislodge the military regime, the world will pay dearly when the dictatorship is challenged by internal means. The population of Nigeria is about a hundred million, and any hot conflict would be a disaster for the rest of West Africa. After Rwanda, failure by the international community to support the democratic forces in Nigeria would be unacceptable. Future generations would not forgive us.

A speedy return to the mandate of June 12, 1993, by which Nigerians elected Chief Moshod Abiola as their President, is essential.

Yours etc,  
IMORO ABDULAI ALHASSAN  
(Africa Research and Information Centre, London),  
TAJUDEEN ABDUL RAHEEM  
(Secretary General,  
Pan African Movement, Uganda),  
KWESI PRATT  
(Managing Editor,  
Weekly Insider, Ghana),  
ZAYA YEEBO  
(Editor, *The African*),  
104 Wynford Road, NI,  
November 14.

From Dr J. 'Kayode Fayemi

Sir, Matthew Parris suggests (article, November 13) that the future for democracy in Africa is bleak because it does not excite the same "passions" in Africans as does slaughter in tribal conflict. This is to misconstrue silence

for acquiescence and to dismiss the daily heroic battles fought by Africans against various dictators propped up by Western powers.

This sort of view was responsible for Western failure to respond quickly to the Rwanda crisis. It should not be allowed to affect the current focus on Nigeria and the need to have a comprehensive sanctions package, as advocated in your leading article of November 13.

What Nigerians require from the international community is an insistence on the same democratic principles which have brought about good governance in other countries. If this requires the sanctions weapon, then so be it.

Yours sincerely,  
J. KAYODE FAYEMI,  
19 Bellingham Road, Catford, SE6,  
November 13.

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, There is an underlying lesson to be derived from the cruel and violent events in Nigeria. At the negotiations in the 1950s for Nigerian independence the doctrine in the Colonial Office was that this was a unique opportunity to set up a really substantial and powerful state in Black Africa: there were men of ability to lead it and the resources to back them.

In such circumstances, the French would have created several small states corresponding with ethnic differences. In retrospect we should have done the same.

We did not then have the advantage of having witnessed the problems of conglomerates such as post-imperial India, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, or the threatened break-up of Canada. The lesson is now clear. It is folly to force disparate ethnic groups into a single political conglomerate.

Not long ago the accepted wisdom favoured political union for Europe. It was to be a superpower with men of ability to lead it and the resources to back them. But the accepted wisdom is by definition behind the game. By the time it is accepted, events have moved on. The lesson in Nigeria is relevant to the project to force political union upon the nations of Europe. We have been warned by events, more than once.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
PETER SMITHERS  
(Parliamentary Private Secretary,  
Colonial Office, 1952-59),  
6921-Vico Morcote,  
Switzerland,  
November 14.

dures are fully carried through to screen out those above the limit.

We always attempt to allocate assisted places to bright children from less well-off households. Out of 170 AP holders, 108 have parents whose income is below £15,000 and of these the income of 76 is so low (under £9,500) that their parental contribution is nil. Only two sets of parents have income in excess of £23,000.

On the basis of these figures, I have no evidence of the wealthy cashing in on the scheme.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL GAMBLE, Headmaster,  
Exeter School, Exeter, Devon,  
November 14.

From the Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School

Sir, On Merseyside it would not be hard to detect fraudulent applications for assisted places. As a local school, we know our assisted-place families and we know that their income returns (all verified by the Inland Revenue) are genuine. Of our AP families 80 per cent are on full assistance, 20 per cent are on income support.

In the depressed urban centres of the country, the AP scheme enables the academic children of working people to fulfil their potential, an opportunity sadly denied to many others since the demise of the grammar schools.

Why else does Tony Blair send his child to a maintained school that is comprehensive in name alone?

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON DAWKINS, Headmaster,  
Merchant Taylors' School,  
Crosby, Liverpool 23,  
November 14.

## Taxing questions

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, The Bishop of Croydon and others (letter, November 13) suggest that 70 per cent of the nation should badger politicians to do more for the 30 per cent on their uppers. The fact is that the 70 per cent are already bankrolling the 30 per cent to the tune of £90 billion every year.

However, if the Bishop wants politicians to get me to fork out even more, I am agreeable. I see every reason to help those who are in need through no fault of their own, especially the parent rendered single because of the premature death of a spouse.

But if the Bishop expects me to pay for people's mistakes, accidents, fecklessness, or determination to pursue a way of life that is not self-financing, he needn't knock on my door.

Yours truly,  
EDWARD THOMAS,  
Flat 4,  
21 Jevington Gardens,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex,  
November 14.

## The Princess and the programme

From Sir David Money-Coutts

Sir, Though we shall all do so, it may not be for us to judge whether the Princess of Wales should give a television interview without Palace permission (reports, November 15). It is, however, for us as licence and taxpayers to judge whether the BBC, with a mandate to maintain broadcasting standards, should commission such an interview, without checking that that permission is in place. I believe it is quite out of order.

Free speech is a privilege not to be abused, least of all by a public corporation.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MONEY-COUTTS,  
Magpie House, Peppard Common,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,  
November 13.

From Mr Claud Morris

Sir, If you take away the oxygen of publicity, where would the Princess be? Is it not up to the newspapers and television to set the standard, or is this asking too much?

Or do we wait on the inevitable and the monarchy is destroyed?

Yours faithfully,  
CLAUD MORRIS,  
4 Vincent Square, SW1,  
November 14.

From Lord Laing of Dunphail

Sir, You carry the following headlines today: "Frank answers promised on family, separation and the future", "The world queues to watch" (early editions).

How sad. Have we nothing better to do?

Yours sincerely,  
LAING,  
High Meadows, Windsor Road,  
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,  
November 15.

## 'Traitor' King

From Mr David Hart and Ms Sally Woodward

Sir, When John Grigg ("War truth about the 'traitor King'", November 14) sees our programmes, he may understand that our allegation about the Duke of Windsor's treachery is not demonstrated by the Duke's desire to see "the country ruled by Hitler as the price of his own restoration to the throne", but by the fact that he betrayed important secrets to the enemy. That is what we claim and that is what the programmes prove.

The programmes record the fact that the interview between Fulton Oursler and the Duke, which Grigg refers to, was published in the American magazine *Liberty* in March 1941. But this was a sanitised version of their meeting, which took place a week before Christmas 1940. In the full contemporaneous account, which remained under lock and key for 50 years, Oursler records that Edward regarded Hitler as "the right and logical leader of the German people... He regarded Hitler as a great man."

Oursler's account of the meeting describes how Edward and his aide Captain Vyvyan Drury set out to enlist his help to approach President Roosevelt to intervene to try to stop the war. Edward promised that if Mr Roosevelt would "make an offer of intervention for peace, that before anyone in England can oppose it [he would] instantly issue a statement supporting it and that will start a revolution in England and force peace".

Fulton Oursler promised to reveal none of this information as it was recognised that should he do so "the lid would be blown off the British Empire".

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HART,  
SALLY WOODWARD  
(Executive producers,  
Edward VIII: The Traitor King),  
Hart Ryan/Limelight Productions,  
3 Bromley Place, Conway Street, WI,  
November 14.

## Remember the RAF

From Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard

Sir, I write this as I watch the televised Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and I see four royal princes, three in naval uniform and one in army uniform.

Three of these princes hold senior ranks in the Royal Air Force, yet once again the junior service is ignored.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL MAYNARD,  
Manor House,  
Piddington, Bicester, Oxfordshire,  
November 12.

## Scales of justice

From Mr William A. Croft

Sir, An Old Bailey fraud trial, which may have cost the taxpayer as much as £5 million, has ended with all seven defendants being acquitted (report, November 15).

The jury was reduced in number, one member having been arrested for fraud. How stupid of the Powers that Be to reject the possible expert and rely on amateurs.

Yours,  
WILLIAM A. CROFT,  
5 Butternorth Gardens,  
Woodford Green, Essex,  
November 15.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.







OBITUARIES

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ANTHONY HEWARD

Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Heward, KCB, OBE, DFC and Bar, AFC, Air Member for Supply and Organisation, Ministry of Defence, 1973-76, died on October 27 aged 77. He was born on July 1, 1918.

IN A career which took him from the biplanes of the interwar era to the V-bombers of the 1950s and the supersonic strike aircraft of a period beyond that, Anthony Heward also flew a number of air raids over Germany during the Second World War. Yet, although he was a bomber man almost from the outset of his RAF career, he had to wait until 1943 to get on to operations with Bomber Command. Once he did, however, he won two DFCs during the course of 30 sorties to Berlin and other heavily defended cities, and commanded two Lancaster squadrons in succession.

In the postwar period he learnt to fly the Valiant, the first of the three V-bombers which made up Britain's nuclear strike force in the 1950s and 1960s. Thereafter he commanded a V-bomber station before going on to occupy senior posts in the RAF, including being head of maritime reconnaissance.

Anthony Wilkinson Heward was born in Brockley, Kent, and educated at Bexhill County School from where he joined the RAF in 1936. After training as a pilot he was posted to No 216 Squadron in Egypt where he flew Vickers Valentia biplane troop carriers. After this he was brought back to England to the first of his bomber posts, as adjutant of No 149 Squadron at Mildenhall. This was operating the Handley Page Heyford, even for its time a cumbersome machine with its fixed undercarriage, and capable of no more than 140mph. It was to be the last of the RAF's biplane heavy bombers.

When war broke out in September 1939, Heward was sent to France on the staff of the Air Component of the British Expeditionary Force, which consisted of Lysanders, Blenheim and Hurricanes, whose task was to carry out tactical and strategic reconnaissance and to defend British troops and bases. When the fury of the Blitzkrieg burst on the Western front in May 1940, breaking the French armies and sending the BEF



Heward, right, with Earl Mountbatten, at the unveiling of a statue of Lord Portal in 1975

reeling backwards to the coast, the Air Component put up what was inevitably a losing battle against the overwhelming strength of the Luftwaffe. When this was seen to be impossible its surviving aircraft and staff, including Heward, were evacuated to England.

But when, at the behest of Churchill, Bomber Command began its operations in earnest (Chamberlain, under pressure from a furious French Government, had forbidden the RAF to bomb Germany lest it cause damage to private property

and loss of civilian life — and reprisals) Heward, although desperately keen to get into action, found himself instructed instead. This, it is true, was a tribute to his flying skills but it was not particularly satisfying to himself. However, his services earned him the Air Force Cross in March 1942, after which he was sent to Turkey.

Unlike the First World War, in which Turkey had fought on the side of the Central Powers, the country had remained neutral and the Allies were anxious to keep it so, in the face

of the Axis threat to the Middle East. Britain had already assisted in the building of airfields in Turkey and in 1941 had stationed some squadrons there, as well as providing technical assistance. Heward's job was to train Turkish pilots, ironically, on the German Heinkel III bomber of which the country's air force had a number. This was a psychologically valuable job from the strategic point of view. Germany had several times put pressure on Turkey to join the Axis, and the RAF presence was an important counterweight. But it irked

Heward, who could see the war raging in other theatres all around him and wanted to join in.

In 1943 he had his wish and was posted to No 57 Squadron which was flying Lancasters. In the following year he was given command of No 50 Squadron, also operating Lancasters, and made a reputation for himself for his leadership in a series of raids on Berlin, Hanover and Frankfurt. For these he was awarded the DFC in April 1944. After that, with the air offensive against Germany rising to a climax, he was appointed to command No 97 Squadron and was awarded the Bar to his DFC in March 1945, by which time the RAF was ranging over German cities at will and with impunity.

Among his appointments after the war was command of the University of London Air Squadron, for which he supervised a recruiting drive. Thereafter he was closely involved with the establishment of Britain's V-bomber force through staff appointments and his command of the bomber station RAF Finningley.

He went on to become Chief of Staff of RAF Strike Command, 1970-72, and AOC of 18 Group, 1972-73. In the latter post he was responsible for maritime reconnaissance at a particularly chilly period of the Cold War. It was 18 Group's task to attempt to keep track of the Soviet submarine fleet in the North Atlantic, largely through the RAF's fleet of Nimrod long-range detection aircraft, aided by the older Avro Shackleton. 18 Group was also responsible for search and rescue operations around the coasts of Britain through its helicopter squadrons.

After his final appointment as Air Member for Supply and Organisation at the MoD he retired in 1976. He had been appointed OBE in 1952. CB in 1968 and advanced to KCB in 1976. Though he was widely respected both as an airman and leader, Anthony Heward was a man of austere character, whose rigid mode of thought and his younger colleagues and subordinates.

In retirement he was a member of Wiltshire County Council, 1981-89, and was a keen fly fisherman. He is survived by his wife Clare and by a daughter and a son.

ELSPETH DAVIE



Elspeth Davie, short story writer and novelist, died in Edinburgh on November 14 aged 77. She was born in Kilmarnock on March 20, 1918.

IN THE early 1950s two Edinburgh writers won in succession *The Observer's* short story competition, and they neatly represent the two facets of "modernist" Scottish writing. The first was the dashing Muriel Spark, the second the almost Kilmarnock Elspeth Davie.

Undoubtedly the colourful Spark is rather more widely read than the monochrome Davie ever was; but the imbalance in their readership does an injustice to the precision, humour and compassion of the latter author who, along with Muriel Spark, could claim to be one of the most idiosyncratic and original Scottish prose writers since R. L. Stevenson.

A further parallel between Spark and Davie is provided by the fact that for many years Davie and her husband, the philosopher George Davie, author of *The Democratic Intellect: Scotland and Her Universities in the Nineteenth Century*, lived in a flat overlooking Bruntsfield Meadows, within view and sound of Jamie Gillespie's School where girls of slender means would toil under the tutelage of Miss Jean Brodie's successors. But that Elspeth Davie's first collection of stories should have been entitled *The Spark* was not necessarily by way of homage to her contemporary.

Born in rural Ayrshire, Elspeth Davie (as she was before she married) went to school, university and art college in Edinburgh. She taught painting for several years, then lived in Ireland before returning with her husband and daughter to Edinburgh.

In all her writing there is an essential fastidious balance between intellect and eye. She writes as an artist — a painter with a literary brain.

Her first novel *Providings* (1965) is, wittily, about the way in which, in spite of themselves, inanimate objects come to influence and rule the lives of mere mortals who dwell among them.

In person a small, shy and desperately retiring woman — somehow suggesting a stern if sceptical mouse — she wrote less about the anxieties of the individual than of the ways in which everyday life conspires against our best-laid plans and obsessions.

"The difficulty with the artist, and particularly the writer, is that much of his work has its roots in the unconscious," she wrote in a note which accompanies two of her stories in *Beyond the Words: Eleven Writers in Search of a New Fiction* (1975). "There is little to show apart from the finished product... The writers who chiefly interest me are those who strike in at an angle to

experience rather than going along parallel to it... The desolating and unfamiliar is happening continually between our getting up and our going to bed... It is of this day-to-day business of living, its mysteriousness and its absurdity, that I would like to write."

These sentences describe precisely the effect of her writing on her readers. To suggest that she employed a fragmentary, Cubist approach might smack of pretentiousness; but there is something of Cubism in her work, the way in which she breaks down characters and situations to build them up and illuminate them, although this is always "human", never theoretical.

She published three novels after her first one, *Providings*. They were: *Creating a Scene* (1971), about the tribulations of an art teacher; *Climbers on a Stair* (1978), about tenement life; and the tough but rewarding *Coming to Light* (1989), an intellectual exploration and celebration of the unlighted Presbyterian character. All three were set in the Scottish capital.

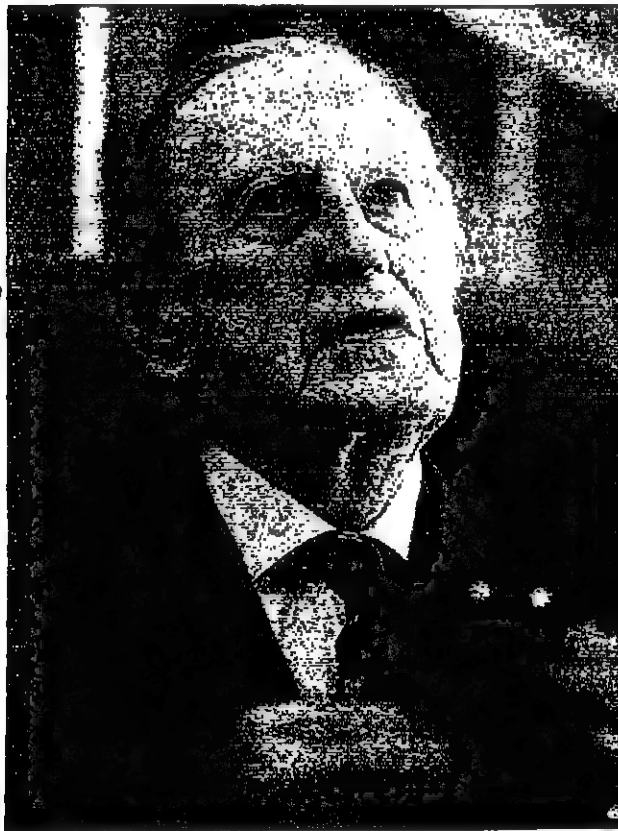
It was, though, as a short story writer that she achieved her finest effects. Her stories were collected in five books: *The Spark* (1969), *The High Tide Talker* (1976), *The Night of the Funny Hats* (1980), *A Traveller's Room* (1985) and *The Death of a Doctor* (1992). They received a number of Scottish Arts Council awards, and in 1978 she won the Katherine Mansfield Prize for short stories.

Her best single short story may be *Concerto*, about a commotion caused by a member of the audience during a concert and its effect on the rest of the listeners and indeed on the music. There is a subversive dry humour to it as the mundane endangers the sublime. (Robert Sharrock represents her by this story in the *Oxford Library of Classic English Short Stories*). Her stories were published in literary magazines such as *Cornhill*, *London Magazine*, *London Review of Books* and *Transatlantic Review* as well as in Scottish periodicals and anthologies.

Elspeth Davie, mercifully, owes nothing to the kaleidoscope or to the Scottish "Renaissance", which may be why Maurice Lindsay omits her from his *History of Scottish Literature*. She always wrote in English, not in Scots, synthetic or otherwise. Her characters are the children of John Knox, weighed down by weariness and struggling to survive. The bleakness of Presbyterianism fills them with foreboding as the light and shade of Edinburgh, which she captures brilliantly, lifts them up. She was a Scottish writer of universality, unlike some of her contemporaries who always wrote for those of similar prejudices.

She is survived by her husband and daughter.

SIR JAMES DARLING



Sir James Darling, CMG, OBE, Headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, 1930-61, died in Melbourne, Australia, on November 1 aged 96. He was born in Tonbridge, Kent, on June 18, 1899.

GEELONG Grammar School, near Melbourne, was regarded by the egalitarian Australian people as the nearest thing they had to Eton. Founded in 1855, it was a fairly conservative establishment, but with a strong liberal and Christian-humanist tradition. It was, therefore, an unusual kind of fortune that brought James Darling, an Englishman, barely 30 and with strong left-wing leanings, to the post of Geelong's headmastership in 1930. He remained there for the next three decades, an outstanding leader of boys, having among his pupils such future celebrities as the writer Peter Carey, the Australian Prime Minister Sir John Gorton and, from the world of the media, Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch. Despite Darling's many

years in Australia, he remained the epitome of Englishness. He was a tall man, with an energetic, restless manner, and he would puff vigorously on his pipe when he was trying to solve a problem. But as an educationist there was nothing remotely stuffy about him. On the contrary, he was bursting with new ideas with which he bombarded his relatively conservative board of governors.

Among these were his determination to imbue his privileged charges with some sense of responsibility to the wider community. He encouraged his boys to work on schemes with local underprivileged families and the unemployed. But his most lasting memorial may well be Timberport, which he established in 1953.

Timberport was an outstation in the remote Australian outback, where boys spent a year of their senior school education, learning how to be self-reliant. Academic work was almost dropped during this year, in favour of skills such as tree-felling, sheep-shearing, panning for gold

and cross-country expeditions. The Prince of Wales escaped there from his unhappy earlier years at Gordonstoun and left, after two terms, glowing with new-found confidence. He described his time at Timberport to the Australian press as "the most wonderful period of my life".

The son of a preparatory school master, James Ralph Darling was himself the product of the Derbyshire public school, Repton. There he ran the debating society, edited the *Reptonian*, and came under the influence of a remarkable sixth-form master, Victor Gollancz (later the publisher). While he was at the school his two successive headmasters were William Temple and Geoffrey Fisher (both future Archbishops of Canterbury). Temple, in particular, became something of a mentor to Darling.

At the end of the First World War, Darling served in France with the Royal Field Artillery. Afterwards he went up to Oriel College, Oxford, to read history. He had by then decided to make his life in education, and he began his teaching career at Merchant Taylors' Crosby, and at Charterhouse. His first experience of Australia was leading a tour of English public schoolboys to the Antipodes. Temple and Fisher then persuaded him to apply for the headmastership of Geelong, when it fell vacant, in succession to Francis Brown.

Darling arrived at Geelong at the beginning of the Depression. He immediately adopted a positive approach to keeping the local workforce in employment. He embarked on a series of new buildings during the 1930s, among them music and art schools, and a new senior boarding house. During the war, he led the school in a spirit of cheerful determination. Boys took on

domestic chores and maintenance work, and built or rebuilt whole buildings.

Afterwards Darling continued with his practice of adding "colonies" to Geelong, which had begun in the 1930s with a preparatory school, Bostock House. In 1947 there came another preparatory school named Glamorgan, in Melbourne, and in 1953 there followed Timberport, in the foothills of the Australian Alps. The boys lived there in chalet-style units, for whose upkeep they were completely responsible. If they failed to gather enough wood, for example, they would simply freeze. Children of all kinds were thrown together in this environment. Prince Charles shared a room with a sheep farmer's son. Darling hoped that the experience would channel the boys' energies aright, at an age when what he termed "the poisonous passions of puberty" could so easily take hold.

Darling retired as headmaster in 1961. During his time there, he had seen Geelong grow from a school of 370, to an empire of several schools, and 1,139 boys. Darling was appointed OBE in 1953, CMG in 1958 and knighted in 1968. After retirement he spent six years as chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, a post which he began enthusiastically, but ended disillusioned by government interference. He spent his retirement, until he was 95, writing a weekly column for the *Melbourne Age*. He was also the author of several books, including *The Education of Civilised Man* (1962) and an autobiography, *Richly Rewarding* (1978).

He is survived by his wife, with whom he celebrated a diamond wedding anniversary in August, their three daughters and a son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WINDSHIELD SCHOOL** is conducting a record of the world's largest car show. The show is being held at the World War II Museum, 1000 N. 1st St., Arlington, Texas. The show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information, call 817-335-1234.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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YOUR WILL

If you are making your will, please think of the Parkinson's Disease Society. For more information, call 01753 551111.

ON THIS DAY

November 16, 1896

The first London to Brighton run celebrated the repeal of the Locomotive Act 1865 which required the carrying of a red flag in front of "steam carriages". The first car to arrive was a Bollee in 2 hours 30 minutes.

The scene all along the road was most remarkable, for not only were the spectators on foot and in carriages numerous beyond anticipation, but hundreds of cyclists formed a flying escort to the cars, and it would

probably not be an exaggeration to say that at least ten thousand cyclists were on the roads between London and Brighton on Saturday...

The motorists and their drivers were much cheered all along the route from Preston-park and the people of Brighton evidently appreciated the compliments paid them in selecting their town for the first public trial of what is doubtless destined to become one of the most important branches of locomotion. The drivers, most of whom were passing the night at the Metropole, met with a very cordial reception from the many hundreds of visitors now staying in the hotel, and they were not sorry for a brief rest before the dinner which had been fixed to take place there at half-past 7. Mr. Lawson, to whose energy and tact, ably seconded as he was by Mr. Harrington Moore, is due much of the success that has attended this experimental trip, thinks that, all things considered, they have done wonderfully well: for it must be remembered that the drivers were inexperienced, seeing that, save two or three Frenchmen, none had ever been on a high-road before, and further there were several cars at the meet which, Mr. Lawson candidly admits, were very badly constructed and which he would never have passed if he had possessed powers to stop them...



## NEWS

## Major and Blair go for the jugular

John Major and Tony Blair traded insults and invective yesterday after the Government drew the battle lines for the general election with a legislative programme that heralded fierce political conflict on immigration, education and law and order.

MPs of all parties predicted a dirty run-in to the election after the leaders reached a new level of bitterness in exchanges over the Queen's speech. Pages 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21

## Mawhinney pelted outside Commons

An inquiry began into why the police took 20 minutes to respond when Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, was pelted with flour and paint by demonstrators on College Green, outside the House of Commons. The protest was against tighter immigration and asylum rules. Page 1

## Palace backlash

Buckingham Palace is considering withdrawing the small remaining support it gives to the Princess of Wales for her public duties because of her Panorama interview. Pages 1, 3, 20, 20

## The women's vote

Women in Britain have been consistently more likely to vote Conservative than men, certainly since polling began, and probably ever since they first got the vote, in 1918. Page 2

## Black Baron jailed

A computer programmer who called himself the Black Baron was jailed after he admitted planting viruses that caused damage amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds. Page 6

## Mayor on video

The Mayor of Barnsley was videoed by DSS investigators to check his claim for a disability allowance. A court heard that he was seen running. Page 8

## Tycoon buys village

Barry Houghton, a self-made millionaire, was revealed as the purchaser of the Cotswold village of Salterton, two months after the sale. He paid £8 million. Page 9

## West jurors warned

Jurors in the Rosemary West trial were warned not to feel that an acquittal would mean the killings of ten young girls and women would go unpunished. Page 5

## Police flag down New York cabbies

More than a tenth of New York's cabbies have not got driving licences, the police have discovered. This will not surprise visitors who have hurried down Manhattan's avenues in the back of a yellow cab. The invariably ill-shaven drivers, who often do not speak English, have a mulish disregard for traffic regulations and lane discipline. Page 15

## Economy: Market hopes of a British interest rate cut were raised by stagnating retail sales and a rise in the number of jobless. Page 25

British Gas: Warm summer weather increased losses at British Gas in the third quarter. The company said it may seek government support over its loss-making contracts with gas producers. Page 25

Euro Disney: The operator of the Disney theme park near Paris reported its first annual profit and record attendance after two years of big losses. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 23.5 points to close at 3571.4. Sterling's trade weighted index fell from 83.3 to 82.6 after a fall from \$1.5645 to \$1.5575 and from DM2.2122 to DM2.1863. Page 28

Cricket: Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, hedged his bets by announcing a party of 13 for the first Test against South Africa after finding that the pitch at Centurion Park had been watered on the eve of the match. Page 48

Rugby union: Jack Rowell, the team manager, said that England would branch away from their traditional, sometimes laboured, style in the match against South Africa. Page 42

Tennis: Pete Sampras beat Boris Becker 6-2, 7-6 at the ATP championship finals in Frankfurt. Becker likened his experience to being hit by a freight train. Page 46

Rugby league: Barrie-Jon Mather, the England centre, has asked solicitors to try to free him from his contract with Wigan which runs until 1997. Page 43

Racing: Oliver Sherwood recorded his 500th National Hunt winner when he rode Myland to victory in the Nissan Fleet Novices' Chase at Kempton. Page 45



The Queen leaving the Palace of Westminster wearing a silver fur-trimmed coat over a full-length white evening dress of heavy silk embroidered with pearl, crystal and cord, which was made as a robe of state for her Coronation in 1953.



## TODAY

## IN THE TIMES

POP ON FRIDAY  
David Sinclair on  
Whitney Houston and  
other new albums;  
Caitlin Moran  
on Squeeze

## EDUCATION

The short route  
to exam success  
— the half-GCSE

Paris uprising: A superb new film from France, *La Haine*, shows youth in revolt on the grim housing estates of outer Paris. Also released this week is the Keaton Reeves film, *A Walk in the Clouds*. Page 35

Veterans return: With David Bowie and Morrissey filling Wembley Arena, and Human League on their first tour for eight years, it was a night for welcoming back pop's veteran heroes. Page 36

Riggs' Mother: At the National, Diana Rigg dominates David Hare's adaptation of Brecht's *Mother Courage*. Page 37

Boys in the Lake: A new staging of *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells takes an all-male view of Tchaikovsky's ballet classic. Page 37

Valerie Grove: Glenys Kinnock observes her successor planning to carry on with her own work from No 10 — with an assurance that Glenys would never have been permitted. "Oh, absolutely. There is a complete generation difference between us in that way." Page 19

Transatlantic tale: Since the eradication of polio, Guillain-Barré syndrome has become the most feared cause of paralysis in the Western world. Page 18

Halt the human race: Felipe Fernández-Armesto on the history of women, from the Dark Ages to the Enlightenment; Roger Scruton on what's wrong with post-modern politics; Nigel Lawson on being Jewish. Page 38

Tale of two nations: Alistair Horne on Noel Annan's role in Occupied Germany; plus a life of Terence Rattigan and new fiction. Page 39

Major thriller: The Oscar-winning film *Jurassic Park* has sparked a war between two rival theme park attractions. Page 40

One noble Congressman pledged to freeze his pay for the duration of the federal shutdown. That's a great idea — don't pay the President, his staff or any member of Congress when the Government screeches to a halt because of politics. Maybe have them kick into a pot to pay closure costs. Then see how long it takes to resolve these intractable disputes — USA Today

Labour is vulnerable, particularly among some of its recent converts, on issues such as law and order and parental choice. Page 16

JOHN BRYANT  
There is a gut feeling that people who do sport don't do crime, but for too long the sporting tradition in schools has been undermined as hundreds of them have sold off playing fields. Page 46

Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Heward, former Air Member for Supply and Organisation, MoD; Elspeth Davis, writer; Sir James Darling, headmaster of Geelong Grammar School. Page 23

World response to Nigeria; the Princess of Wales's interview on Panorama. Page 21

Preview: Two tax fraud inspectors take centre stage in a quirky comedy-drama by Tony Grounds, *The Ghostbusters of East Finchley* (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond welcomes a Paul Daniels show with less Paul. Page 47

Duck and weave  
The Government will dot and cross, clean and tidy, duck and weave: and do little else of legislative substance from now until the next election. Page 21

Inside Israel  
Shimon Peres has ensured that the country's trauma does not paralyse its elected peacemakers. Page 21

Wait and watch  
The Princess of Wales has embarrassed her husband and captured the headlines. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG  
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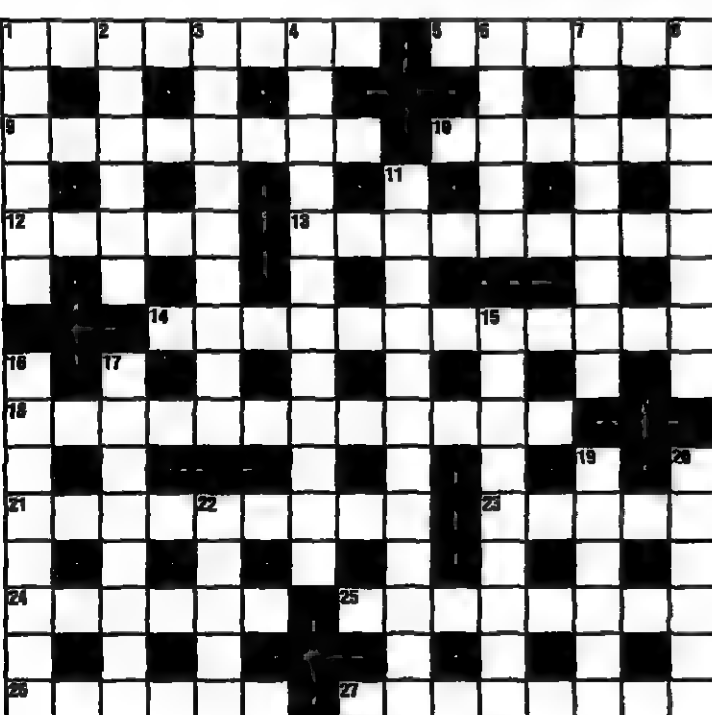
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## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,014



- ACROSS
- Seafaring fellow embraced by girl (8).
  - A fine concern to make a declaration (6).
  - Taking liberties and striking (8).
  - Shot at bird observed by daughter (6).
  - Woolen material a shopping area sent back (5).
  - He helps keep people's spirits up (9).
  - Leave hurriedly to attend a military entertainment (4,1,7).
  - City person foolishly involving church in brilliant display (12).
  - Officer keeping gold in chest of drawers (9).
  - Like theatrical husband or possibly beau (5).
  - Boldly confront monster crossing river (6).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,013

DICTIONARY  
CORPUS  
PROMETHETIC  
I WMAITISE  
CONFORM SATCHEL  
T L N A A O  
W N N G A G  
AUDIT SEETHING  
T A A A H P  
CRAMPION FORBIDDEN  
DISCANT RECORD  
OLSY SOLL  
GHENTIO CHANCERY

- DOWN
- One's outwardly brave, for the most part (6).
  - Soldier changes process of annulment (6).
  - The will to install new mates in temporary accommodation (9).
  - Means of discovering hidden charges (4,8).
  - It's enjoyable serving American mushrooms (5).
  - Forced to use old measure in bar out East (8).
  - Tory wet's way to assess for taxation? (8).
  - Alienation of peculiar beings in SF film (12).
  - Military coordinator's course of action an artist reported (9).
  - Room over pub for typists needing a break (5,3).
  - Parliamentarian's argument keeps mob leader in dungeon (8).
  - Gymnastics group wanting a change in Spain (6).
  - Roofs often are criticised like this (6).
  - Nothing is as sheltered as this haven (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
West Midlands	705
East Midlands	706
North East, Yorkshire, Lancashire	707
North West, Cheshire, Merseyside	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire	709
Central Scotland	710
East Scotland	711
West Scotland	712
Ulster & Humberside	713
Dundee & Perth	714
North Wales	715
West Wales & South Wales	716
Central England, Channel Islands	717
Wales	718
East of England, Essex, Kent	719
West of England, Devon, Cornwall	720
East of Scotland	721
West of Scotland	722
Central Scotland	723
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Central Scotland	798
East of Scotland	799
West of Scotland	800

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic forecasts, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic forecasts	731
Area within M25	732
East of M25 (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26, A27, A28, A29, A30, A31, A32, A33, A34, A35, A36, A37, A38, A39, A40, A41, A42, A43, A44, A45, A46, A47, A48, A49, A50, A51, A52, A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A59, A60, A61, A62, A63, A64, A65, A66, A67, A68, A69, A70, A71, A72, A73, A74, A75, A76, A77, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84, A85, A86, A87, A88, A89, A90, A91, A92, A93, A94, A95, A96, A97, A98, A99, A100)	733
West of M25 (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26, A27, A28, A29, A30, A31, A32, A33, A34, A35, A36, A37, A38, A39, A40, A41, A42, A43, A44, A45, A46, A47, A48, A49, A50, A51, A52, A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A59, A60, A61, A62, A63, A64, A65, A66, A67, A68, A69, A70, A71, A72, A73, A74, A75, A76, A77, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84, A85, A86, A87, A88, A89, A90, A91, A92, A93, A94, A95, A96, A97, A98, A99, A100)	734
North of M25 (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26, A27, A28, A29, A30, A31, A32, A33, A34, A35, A36, A37, A38, A39, A40, A41, A42, A43, A44, A45, A46, A47, A48, A49, A50, A51, A52, A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A59, A60, A61, A62, A63, A64, A65, A66, A67, A68, A69, A70, A71, A72, A73, A74, A75, A76, A77, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84, A85, A86, A87, A88, A89, A90, A91, A92, A93, A94, A95, A96, A97, A98, A99, A100)	735

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temperature (°C) and lowest night temperature (°C) at various stations.

Station	Highest (°C)	Lowest (°C)
London	12	5
Edinburgh	10	3
Belfast	11	4
Cardiff	12	5
Manchester	11	4
Nottingham	12	5
Sheffield	11	4
Southampton	12	5
Stockport	11	4
Swansea	12	5
Torquay	11	4
Wolverhampton	12	5
Wrexham	11	4
York	12	5

## FORECAST

General: Wales, southern and central England will start mild with bright spells and showers. Dull, wet weather will move southeast during the day, accompanied by a sharp drop in temperature. Northern England will be cold, with a few more hours of rain, but it should turn brighter and drier later.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold with bright spells. Southwest Scotland will become quite sunny, but many other areas will have showers, often wintry.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Islands: bright, mild and showery at first; dull, cold and wet later. Wind southerly, westerly, later northwesterly, mostly moderate. Max 12C (54F).

E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N England: soon becoming cold and wet; turning drier in evening. Wind will soon turn northerly, fresh. Max 10C (50F) in morning.

N Wales, NW England, Lake District: late of rain clearing to brighter skies and a few showers in afternoon. Wind northerly, fresh. Max 7C (45F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cold and showery; some hail and snow; brighter at times. Wind mainly northerly, fresh. Max 6C (43F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Inverclyde: bright or sunny; a few showers. Wind northerly, moderate. Max 7C (45F).

Outlook: wintry showers in north and east at first, otherwise fine and cold with night frost.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=light; c=cloud; d=dry; dr=drizzle; ds=drizzle showers; du=dull; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; i=rain; sh=showers; si=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder; w=wind; x=other.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	12	SE	100	0.5
Edinburgh	10	SE	100	0.2
Belfast	11	SE	100	0.1
Cardiff	12	SE	100	0.3
Manchester	11	SE	100	0.4
Nottingham	12	SE	100	0.2
Sheffield	11	SE	100	0.3
Southampton	12	SE	100	0.1
Stockport	11	SE	100	0.2
Swansea	12	SE	100	0.1
Torquay	11	SE	100	0.2
Wolverhampton	12	SE	100	0.1
Wrexham	11	SE	100	0.2
York	12	SE	100	0.1

## ABROAD

Algeria	22	75	Cochin	7	45
Alexandria	24	75	Dubai	10	50
Algiers	21	70	Dubrovnik	17	63
Amman	22	70	Durham	17	63
Athens	20	65	Edinburgh	17	63
Bahrain	25	77	Florence	17	63
Batavia	25	77	Frankfurt	9	48
Bombay	27	81	Funchal	32	72
Bombay	27	81	Glasgow	11	64
Bombay	27	81	Glasgow	11	64
Bombay	27	81	Helsinki	3	37
Bombay	27	81	Hong Kong	20	60
Bombay	27	81	Istanbul	10	50
Bombay	27	81	Jakarta	28	79
Bombay	27	81	Jakarta	28	79
Bombay	27	81	London	18	64
Bombay	27	81	Los Angeles	23	73
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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Investors should forget about 'political risk'



BOOKS 38, 39

Eyewitness tales from war and peace



TRAVEL 40, 41

Wild attractions of the World Travel Market

GEOFF BROWN ON THIS WEEK'S FILMS Arts 35-37

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 1995

## 'Wiped out' investor wins £75,000 payout

By JON ASHWORTH



Thornton: court blow

A SMALL investor who was "wiped out" by LHW Futures, the controversial commodities dealer, yesterday won a ten-year battle to recoup his losses. Michael Haley was awarded nearly £75,000 plus costs by the High Court, which ruled that he had been the victim of negligent advice.

The ruling came as a blow to Clive Thornton, the one-time Abbey National chief executive and later chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, who took control of LHW in 1989. The company was renamed Burgen Hall, and withdrew from futures and options trading after failing to win regulatory approval. Mr Thornton, who was in court for the judgment, said that he was awaiting advice on whether to appeal. Mr Justice Wadsworth said Mr Haley had been dragged in "too deep and too soon" after responding to an advertisement in the mid-1980s. He invested an initial £2,600 in Swiss francs and was persuaded to part with a further £23,400 — sold to him as a "jump-in-quick, once in a lifetime, chance".

Mr Haley was earmarked as a "big player" and introduced to Stephen Morris, a senior account executive specialising in currencies. He recommended an investment of £180,000 — described by the judge as "a very big proposition for a newcomer who had only dealt twice on the market before". Mr Haley eventually put up £10,000, and was soon borrowing to raise funds. The deal went "spectacularly wrong", and Mr Haley was urged to invest more money as his margin was eroded. LHW sent a courier bike to his home in Guildford, Surrey, to wait while he signed the cheque. Three days later, Mr Haley was "wiped out". Of a total investment of about £54,000, he recouped just £2,231.62.

The judge awarded Mr Haley £49,168. A further award of £25,763 was made against Mr Morris. Interest was awarded at base plus 1 per cent, potentially swelling the size of the award to £165,000. Mr Haley said: "We've won, but it is a pyrrhic victory. They got me into a highly speculative business that I didn't appreciate, and took 40-50 per cent in commission." He had to sell his home and now lives in a one-bed flat in Midhurst, West Sussex, supported by family and friends.

## Lloyd's loses its chief executive

By JON ASHWORTH

PETER MIDDLETON yesterday abruptly resigned his £250,000-a-year post as chief executive of Lloyd's of London, casting the troubled insurance market into fresh uncertainty.

Mr Middleton announced his resignation last night after accepting a top job with Salomon Brothers, the American investment bank. He formally departs at the end of the week. Ron Sandler, director of special projects at Lloyd's since March, is to be his successor.

The manner of Mr Middleton's departure sends a worrying signal to the insurance community. He was the architect of ambitious plans to restructure the Lloyd's market, and led negotiations with the various Lloyd's action groups. His exit at such a critical stage will cause widespread dismay.

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda-Walker Action Group, said that Mr Middleton's resignation was a blow to negotiations about Lloyd's £2.8 billion settlement offer to names. Mr Deeny, who was due to meet Mr Middleton tomorrow to carry on the negotiations, said: "It is a real loss to Lloyd's. I think it has to cause concern."

Names left Peter Middleton, because he came from outside the market, had a real concern for the position not shared by some other members of Lloyd's. It is obviously unfortunate when a key player to negotiations resigns."

Mr Middleton's exit is the latest and most damaging in a series of top-level departures. Rosalind Gilmore resigned in September after less than a year as head of regulation.

Mr Middleton, 55, joined Lloyd's in September 1992 after five years as chief executive of Thomas Cook. The former monk has received much of the flak from names over the disastrous losses at Lloyd's. He is to be head of European operations for Salomon Brothers.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3571.4	(+23.5)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE All share	1751.46	(+9.91)
Nikkei	17682.74	(-19.77)
New York		
Dow Jones	8881.33	(+10.12)
S&P Composite	390.11	(+0.82)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Yield	6.25%	(6.25%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Future (Dec)	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)

### STERLING

New York		
\$	1.5580*	(1.5589)
London		
DM	1.5585	(1.5589)
FF	2.1677	(2.2045)
FF	7.5560	(7.8323)
Sfr	1.7700	(1.7778)
Yen	157.29	(158.54)
£ Index	82.6	(83.3)

### DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4022*	(1.4135)
FF	4.8438*	(4.8910)
Sfr	1.7342*	(1.7415)
Yen	100.52*	(101.58)
\$ Index	92.8	(93.1)

Tokyo close Yen 100.85

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day Jan	\$16.45	(\$16.35)
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### GOLD

London close	\$386.05	(\$385.95)
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\* denotes midday trading price

### Dutch sale

Unigate, the dairy group, plans to sell its 29 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch specialist food company. Sales proceeds of £329 million are expected. Unigate also plans to sell its American restaurants business. Report 27, Tempus 28

### French boost

Commercial Union, Britain's largest composite insurer reported a huge increase during the third quarter in life insurance premiums from France after the takeover of Group Vieoite, the French insurer. However, CU said that the industry remained extremely competitive, especially in Britain. Page 30

## Sterling is hit by gloomy figures

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING slumped near to record lows yesterday as another batch of alarmingly weak economic data fuelled a bandwagon in favour of lower interest rates.

The beleaguered state of Britain's high streets was again in evidence, with a 0.1 per cent fall in retail sales in October. This means there was virtually no growth in sales volumes for a year.

This news was coupled with a rise of 200 in seasonally adjusted unemployment in October, the first increase since August 1993. It took the number of people out of work and claiming benefit to a seasonally adjusted 2,265,500. Unadjusted unemployment was down by 79,000.

The seasonally adjusted rise was statistically insignificant and, like the small rise initially published in July's data, may well be revised to show another fall. However, the headline figure served to underline how the economic slowdown is showing up in a slackening labour market.

The jobs and sales news together have now convinced many in the City that an interest rate cut is on the way. However, euphoria has not yet set in because the financial

markets are waiting to see what the Budget has in store in less than two weeks' time. The path of rates will, to some extent, depend on how fiscally imprudent the Chancellor is deemed to have been.

The minutes of the September 29 monthly monetary meeting, published yesterday, showed that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was still recommending a wait-and-see policy on interest rates, saying that he was still not persuaded that the inflation target would be met in two years' time without an additional tightening of policy.

The Chancellor was much more dovish on inflation, suggesting that he will be inclined to cut interest rates in coming months if growth continues to falter and inflation stays low. He said that the slowdown had increased the probability that the inflation target would be met and said that he was not unduly concerned by a pick-up in recorded inflation in August.

Since that monetary meeting, most economic indicators have been decidedly weak, which is likely to reinforce the Chancellor's optimism.

The foreign exchange market showed a fairly dramatic reaction to talk of lower rates, however. The pound's trade-weighted index fell sharply to end the day at 82.5, from 83.3 on Tuesday night. The pound was quoted at DM2.1863, only one penny from its record low against the mark of 2.1755. Gilt and short sterling futures rallied as the likelihood of an interest rate cut strengthened.

The arguments for a rate cut were underlined by figures showing that average earnings growth remains subdued, at 3.25 per cent in September, weaker than a year ago.

Michael Saunders, economist with Salomon Brothers, noted that, although retail price figures today may show a rise in October, yesterday's sales data suggests that shops will soon be forced into discounting to lift volumes.

Dismissing response, page 26  
Pennington, page 27  
Economic View, page 29



Philippe Bourguignon, above, can afford a smile on the Euro Disney rollercoaster ride to profit (Jon Ashworth writes). The chairman of the French theme park operator, pictured sampling Space Mountain, its latest attraction, reported the group's first full-year profit since the park opened more than three years ago. Rising attendance and hotel

## Euro Disney rides into black on debt holiday

occupancy led the group to register a pre-tax profit of Fr114 million in the year to September 30, compared with a Fr1.8 billion loss last time. The City was unimpressed.

and the shares fell 21p to 194p. A failure to make a profit would have been embarrassing to Euro Disney, given the generous concessions granted in the Fr13 billion financial

restructuring announced in March 1994.

Then, Walt Disney, the majority shareholder, extended credit, as well as waiving royalties on entrance fees, food and merchandise, and suspending management fees — both for five years. Bankers agreed to an 18-month moratorium on interest payments. Pennington, page 27

## Tarmac and Wimpey agree to swap assets

By CARL MORTISTED

TARMAC and Wimpey have kick-started the consolidation of the construction industry with an asset swap that will make Wimpey the world's largest private housebuilder and dramatically increase Tarmac's share of the aggregates market in the UK.

Shares in both companies leapt on the announcement that Wimpey would take over Tarmac's housing division at asset value. In exchange, Tarmac will buy Wimpey's construction division and mineral business. Wimpey rose 15p, to 127p, and Tarmac 9p, to 92 1/2 p. The deal is expected to price the Tarmac housing division at a net asset value of £320 million at the end of the year, while placing an equal value on the minerals business of Wimpey. The construction business of Wimpey is being sold at nil value, including its year-end cash balances. The agreement in principle to the asset transfer, expected to be completed early next year, is

subject to a valuation of work in progress and the cash balances of Wimpey construction, £88 million in June.

The agreement was described by both companies as "a win-win situation" and Joe Dwyer, chief executive of Wimpey, predicted that the move would trigger further consolidation in the UK construction industry. "I would say

that a lot of discussions are going on in boardrooms today."

Tarmac put its housebuilding business up for sale with the announcement of a change of strategy last August. Neville Simms, group chief executive of Tarmac, said that the exchange would reinforce Tarmac's position in aggregates and create a world-class contracting organisation. He said that before one-off costs for reorganisation, there would be no dilution of earnings next year.

Wimpey blamed the problems of funding for its decision to shed contracting and minerals. The deal would give Wimpey sales of some 14,000 houses per year, with further gains in time. However, it gave warning that market conditions would mean lower profits from housing this financial year.



Simms: world-class

Pennington, page 27  
Tempus, page 28

## Gas calls for State cash aid

BRITISH GAS has called for government cash to stem the increasing cost of take-or-pay contracts (Christine Buckley writes). Yesterday, after making a provision of £83 million this year for the shortfall between what it had agreed to pay for gas and the selling price of what is used, British Gas revealed that it had pressed the Government for financial support. Its favoured way is for the scrapping of the levy on gas from the North Sea which costs the company about £170 million.

Roy Gardner, finance director, said: "We are going to be most insistent that the Government helps us." A Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman said: "We are monitoring the situation over the take-or-pay contracts, but cannot intervene before British Gas has spoken to all the suppliers concerned."

British Gas nine-month pre-tax profits slumped 27 per cent to £422 million, with market share down from 55 per cent to 35 per cent. Warm weather was likely to take a further £120 million toll. Tempus, page 28

## Judge rejects writ against Guinness

By MELVYN MARCUS  
CITY EDITOR

AN \$85 million writ issued by Thomas Ward, the US attorney, against Guinness and three individuals associated with the company, has been thrown out by Judge Aviva Bobb, who presided over a hearing in the Los Angeles Superior Court, has struck out Mr Ward's claims. Judge Bobb dismissed Mr Ward's lawsuit on the grounds that the former adviser to Guinness had failed to show that the California state courts enjoyed jurisdiction over Guinness and other parties named in the writ.

The writ, launched in the spring of last year, alleged that Guinness had been involved in a conspiracy with the DTI and the UK Government to discredit and oust Mr Ward. Ernest Saunders, the company's former chairman and chief executive, and other managers involved in the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986. Enjoined with Guinness was Shaun Dowling, a former director. The writ also cited Sir Thomas Risk, the former Governor of the Bank of Scotland, and Lord MacLaurie of Bearsden, who initially took over as chairman after Mr Saunders resigned.

Some 20 claims against Guinness included allegations that the company had breached the Racketeering, Influence and Corrupt Organisations Act. Mr Ward also claimed damages for wrongful termination, loss of income, fraud, libel and malicious prosecution.

David Loomis, Mr Ward's attorney, told *The Times* yesterday that he did not rule out ongoing legal action by his client. Mr Loomis pointed out that Mr Ward could appeal against the ruling or might look to another jurisdiction outside California. Mr Loomis described Judge Bobb's ruling as disappointing, but emphasised that it meant very little in terms of Mr Ward's ability to proceed with his case.

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□ What future for Britain's housebuilders? □ Euro Disney into the black at last □ A numbers game at the CSO

## Can housing find the floor?

IF John Stewart is right, Tarmac, Costain, Mowlem and YJ Lovell have all made a terrible mistake, one about to be repeated by BICC. All five are part of the exodus from private housebuilding, a mass confirmation by those who should know best that the market is still going from bad to worse.

Unfortunately for the industry, and for those whose main asset is still-depreciating bricks and mortar, Mr Stewart is probably wrong. An independent consultant, he reckons the downturn is past, or so he has claimed to the Southern Home-Builders Association.

Here he is at least telling his audience what they want to hear, and a pity so many of them had reached the exits before he started. He points to marginal increases in house prices over the past three months and a flat trend in mortgage approvals, which seem flimsy foundations for a stable house market.

All the above companies are contractors who are quitting housing rather than straight housebuilders, because the latter do not exit, they go bust, and plenty have done just that.

For BICC, the exit is part of a grand old tradition called the New Chief Executive's Kitchen

Sink. Alan Jones arrived in April and spent three months touring his new empire, and he has now decided what needs to be done at BICC. He wants returns on capital of 20 per cent from all businesses, sensible man, and the housebuilding side by contrast probably makes no return at all.

A climate of opinion in the housing industry, traditionally true-blue Tory to a man, says all may be well again if a Labour government is elected. Inflation would be higher, interest rates would be negative, and this would conveniently erode fat new mortgages.

Unfortunately, as Tony Blair may or may not be about to find out, the ability of his government to stoke up inflation again will be hampered both by a Bank of England that would still have its public say and by pressure from international money markets.

For a housebuilder to survive in what will almost certainly be a low inflation climate, therefore, it must be substantial in size — at

least four times the size of BICC's operation, which builds at most 500 homes a year — to gain economies of scale. It needs a wide geographic spread, so if houses are not selling in London, sales in Newcastle, say, can provide a counter-balance.

It also needs a management that is focused on building and selling homes, and one that is quite good at it. Coincidentally, such an arrangement probably suits the country's housing needs rather well too. Better half a dozen efficient medium-sized units than the myriad of get-rich-quick merchants who prospered in the last housing boom.

### Rights way out of a mousetrap

SHAREHOLDERS in Euro Disney should be glad that the mouse has formed a club they can join to gain discounts and other perks, because it at last gives them a return on their shares. A profit, and a year



ahead of schedule to boot, is a highly credible achievement, and the company is no longer the corporate figure of fun it was a couple of years ago, a turnaround that is not least the result of some mended bridges with the City. But Mickey still has a lot more of the Magic Mountain to climb.

Consider the situation. Euro Disney is (just) making enough profit to cover financing costs of its debt. These costs, because of the structuring of that debt, will climb year by year, while management fees and royalties forgone to the Disney corporation will kick in again in 1999.

To cover all these, Euro Disney needs to raise revenues by 4 to 5 per cent a year, through higher prices and spend per head, more visitors and general good housekeeping, and management believes it can beat this. But this is running faster to stay still, if the bulk of your operating profits are still handed over to the banks.

In this situation, any sensible corporate financier would advise a year or two of such financial immobility as a pledge of good behaviour and then a rights issue — indeed it was just this lugubrious arithmetic that spurred Cordiant, *né* Saatchi, to its recent cash-raising. This seems the best way out for the mouse, especially if this were combined with the fresh finance for the second theme park, now on permanent hold.

There is just one difficulty, aside from the fact that shareholders have already put up for one rights. Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, with 23 per cent, has made clear his continued support. But how keen

would Disney in Burbank, with 39 per cent, be to put up the needed cash or see further dilution on its holding?

### Making an odd job of statistics

ONE cannot help feeling that the Central Statistical Office is teasing us. It only recently took over unemployment figures but is clearly having fun. In July, the jobsless total rose by a shocking 1,700, causing Cassandras to emerge striking from every doorway. Ho, ho, the figures were soon revised down, to show yet another fall in the official count, albeit of only 200.

The seasonally-adjusted total has risen again, but by a statistically insignificant 200. CSO statisticians made it clear straight away that the figures were likely to be revised again by more than this amount — although who can say which way? Given that there was a month on month fall of 80,000 before

seasonal adjustments, compared with a fall of 125,000 in October last year, it is clear why they did not think their own figures meant much.

Behind this dance of the seven veils, however, is an all-too-real economic slowdown that does not need today's figures to prove it. Retail sales have hardly risen in volume over the past year, hardly surprising if average earnings have risen just 3.25 per cent, a full percentage point less than needed to make people better off after tax.

All that provides a timely economic excuse (Gordon Brown please note) for the Budget tax cuts and lower interest rates that Kenneth Clarke, the would-be populist, wanted anyway.

### A shot in the dark

BRUSSELS has set up a £240 million fund to help European film makers raise cash. Sadly, assisted Euro-productions in the past, as opposed to ventures forged in the red-hot crucible of commerce, have tended to be real clunkers, known in the trade as Europuddings. A few more *Four Weddings* would be a treat. But can the Euro-Commissioners be trusted to steer clear of German farce or Belgian social realism?

## Unigate clears the decks for food deals

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNIGATE, the food and dairy company, looks set to go on a shopping spree after announcing that it is selling its 29 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch baby food manufacturer, for an expected £330 million.

Unigate is expected to try to expand its European food and distribution interests, although previous rumoured bid targets, such as Hazlewood and Dairy Crest, were being discounted last night.

Unigate yesterday pleased the City with better than expected half-year profits, up 12.5 per cent, to £60.4 million, on turnover up 17 per cent, to £1 billion. The shares rose 7p, to 432p.

Unigate has seen the value of its stake in Nutricia double in the past two years. At the half-year stage, Nutricia contributed £11 million, a rise of 25 per cent on last year, to Unigate profits.

Unigate, whose chief executive is Ross Buckland, said it

was withdrawing from Nutricia because of the limited cash flow that it receives from the stake and a desire to continue its strategy of focusing on its general food interests.

The company said that the sale would "finance additional investment opportunities with greater rewards". The share placing will be led by SG Warburg and is expected to be completed by December.

Unigate's results were boosted by a good showing from the European foods division, whose profits rose by 23 per cent, to £41 million. The improvement was helped by the first half-year contribution by its two recent French acquisitions, Vedial and Prodipal.

The fresh food division, which includes brands such as St Ivel, increased profits from £14.8 million to £24.5 million. Sales of Malton, the bacon producer, rose by 24 per cent.

Unigate faced continuing problems in its dairy divisions, whose profits fell by £2 million, to £16.5 million. Milk sales have been hit by the abolition of the Milk Marketing Board and the shift from doorstep deliveries. Volumes declined by 2 per cent in total, and the hot weather hit doorstep delivery by up to 18 per cent.

The Wincanton distribution business also made slow progress. Profits of £10.6 million were only marginally ahead of last year. In the US, profits from the Black-eyed Pea restaurant business were halved to £3 million.

The dividend rises by 5.6 per cent, to 6.65p, due on January 5. An EGM to clear the Nutricia sale will be held in London on 1 December.



Buckland: pleased City

### Bid partner sought for Gartmore

By PATRICIA TERAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONSBANK, the US bank, has been searching for a European partner to submit a joint bid for Gartmore, the fund management firm that was put up for sale by Banque Indosuez in September.

NationsBank, which last year signed an agreement with Gartmore to sell international equity investment products to US retail clients, has an option to buy 25 per cent of Gartmore's shares. It is less keen to bid for the remaining 75 per cent Indosuez stake because it would involve taking on goodwill. Under US accounting rules NationsBank would have to amortise the goodwill through the profit and loss account, which would hit profits.

One of the main problems is how to tie in key directors and fund managers. A purchaser would need to ensure they were retained. A deal is, therefore, expected to include significant "golden hello" payments or guaranteed bonuses for the key players, such as Paul Myrnes, chairman and chief executive, and David Watts, director of UK investment.

### Land Sec pays more from less

By CARL MORTISHED

LAND SECURITIES, the property group, increased its half-year dividend, despite a fall in earnings per share. The interim is up 3.6 per cent to 7.1p, while profits fell from £119 million to £118 million. Earnings per share slipped from 16.81p to 16.5p.

Profits are being hit by the combined effect of lack of rental growth and the company's heavy spending on developments. Sir Peter Hunt, chairman, explained that the impact on the bottom line was expected. He said: "Profits are bound to be adversely affected during any major development programme because we do not capitalise interest as part of the cost of development."

Capital expenditure totalled £66 million during the half year to September 30 and the interest bill rose from £74 million to almost £80 million. Sir Peter said that revenues from the new buildings would begin to show through in the year to March 1998. Developments, such as Eland House SW1, a site in Cannon Street in the City and the White Rose Shopping Centre near Leeds will make a contribution.

## No more life for One Life

By ROBERT MILLER

A COMPANY promoting a multi-level money circulation scheme known as The Businessman Game was last night in the hands of the Official Receiver after an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry.

DTI inspectors are understood to have found nearly £500,000 in cash and bank accounts at the office of One

Life Limited, based at the Pixmore Centre in Leichworth, Hertfordshire. The High Court appointed the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator "to protect and preserve the assets and financial records until the hearing of a winding-up petition" on January 17.

It is believed that more than 1,600 people from around the

country paid an initial upfront membership fee of £2,000 each. They were offered £500 for introducing a friend to the scheme as part of an incentive programme.

Up to 75 per cent of the money provided by members was redistributed around the structure with the majority of the rewards going to the founder members.

## BICC closures as profits slow

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SECOND-HALF profits at BICC, the cables and construction group, are set to fall as it embarks on an £80 million factory closure programme overseas.

The company, which owns Balfour Beatty, the civil engineer, said dearer raw materials and a flood of cheap cables from eastern Europe would mean results for 1995 would be

below market expectations. Analysts downgraded full-year pre-tax profits by about £20 million to £130 million before rationalisation costs.

A factory in Schönow in Berlin has been earmarked for closure and will account for a "sizeable chunk" of the £80 million provision.

BICC also confirmed yesterday that its housing business,

Clarke Homes, which operates mainly in the Midlands and south of England, was up for sale. Interested parties are already in talks. The sale would result in the group writing off £44 million of goodwill. The board still intends to pay a 12.5p dividend.

Pennington, this page

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# Swiss bid talk proves to be a tonic for Zeneca

SHARES enjoyed a strong rally as hopes of a cut in domestic interest rates were revived and speculative whispers of a possible bid for Zeneca resurfaced.

Evidence of buying from central Europe prompted new talk of a bid for Zeneca from Roche, the Swiss drugs group, possibly at £15 a share, which would value the UK pharmaceuticals group at more than £14 billion. Zeneca ended 46p higher at £12.90.

Meanwhile, news of the first upward move in the jobs total for more than two years and further confirmation of sluggish retail sales helped equities recover from early falls. The economic numbers, along with a cut in German money-market rates, revived hopes of lower domestic interest rates and enlivened the stock market in spite of a string of profit warnings.

The cash market's advance was largely futures-driven, although there was also late buying from American investors. A mildly positive start on Wall Street, after mixed US economic data, helped to bolster sentiment in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best of the day at 3,571.4, up 23.5. Volume reached 692 million shares.

The building sector was the centre of attention after Tarmac and George Wimpey unveiled plans for an asset-swap deal that will sharpen both companies' business focus.

Under the plan, Tarmac will exchange its private housing arm for Wimpey's minerals and construction business in a move that will see Wimpey focusing solely on housing and land development. Neither company anticipates earnings dilution from the deal, which will be completed early next year. Tarmac advanced 9p to 92p, on volume of 20.3 million shares, while Wimpey jumped 15p to 127p, on 6.4 million shares traded.

Elsewhere, British Gas fell 4p to 241p, on volume of 11.9 million shares, after the gas group revealed deepening third-quarter losses during the off-peak summer months, leading to downgrades.

Analysts went for their red pens after BICC, the cables to construction group, gave warning that full-year profits will fall short of market expectations. BICC, down 9p to 253p, told of weak second half trading and unveiled £80 million of rationalisation costs



Retailers edged higher on hopes of food price rises

to try to restructure its troubled low-voltage cables business, and may sell its house-building unit.

The downturn in cable prices and concern that there is too much capacity in Europe, with competition from the likes of Alcatel, Siemens and Pirelli, and the US has prompted Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, to

long-awaited plans to sell its 29 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch baby foods group, through a book-building offering. The deal is likely to be worth £320 million. Elsewhere in the sector, Unigate bid speculation saw Hazlewood Foods add 3p to 111p.

Rate cut hopes and broker recommendations offset the lower retail sales numbers.

Rank Organisation dipped 6p to 394p after NatWest Securities again advised clients to reduce holdings in the leisure group. NatWest has issued a hefty research note questioning the potential growth and asset values of Rank's bingo business. Fair value for shares is seen to be about 10 per cent lower than the present level.

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there park group has been in the black. The fall was partly due to profit-taking, though some analysts are concerned about "relatively disappointing" growth during peak summer period and a heavier-than-expected cost structure.

Hopes that food prices will recover from recent falls and possibly start to rise next year saw some nibbling among the food retailers. Those deemed to have fared best in the aftermath of the ongoing food price wars enjoyed the strongest gains, with Asda Group up 2.5p to 102.5p, on heavy volume of 19 million shares traded, bolstered as CLL reiterated its buy recommendation, while Argill, owner of the Safeway supermarket chain, rose 7.5p to 315.5p and Tesco 7p to 255p.

Peatex Oil gushed 20p higher to 140p after the company received a £31 million agreed bid from Melrose Energy, worth 156p a share. Melrose, which also announced a £13 million one-for-five rights issue at 34p, eased 1p to 38p. Elsewhere, Greenway Ship 25p to 72p after the oil services firm accompanied lower profits with a warning about challenging conditions continuing.

Britannia Group fell 3p to 23p after giving warning that a dull autumn housing market is likely to lead to lower profits being below City expectations, though the dividend will be held. Record full-year profits and optimism for the future helped VTR, the television post-production specialist, jump 20p to 144p.

GLT-EDGED: The market received a boost after the weaker-than-expected retail sales and unemployment figures pointed to subdued inflationary pressures and gave renewed hopes of interest rate cuts. The December long gilt future hit a high of £108 1/2 before shortening and profit-taking before today's RPI and PSBR figures saw it end at £107 1/2, up 5 ticks, on volume of 76,000 contracts. Among conventional, shorts added £1 1/2, while gains extended to £1 1/2 for longer-dated and £1 for index-linked.

NEW YORK: Industrial shares were higher at midday in a rather flat market as investors' attention was distracted by the Budget battle in Washington. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 10.12 points at 4,881.93.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4881.93 (+10.12)
S&P Composite	590.11 (+0.82)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17682.74 (+119.77)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9511.38 (+24.01)
Amsterdam:	
BOE Index	499.01 (+0.19)
Sydney:	
ASX	2130.10 (+10.52)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2186.17 (+11.12)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2067.16 (+0.16)
Brussels:	
General	7018.68 (+25.89)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1075.18 (+36.97)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	692.40 (+2.70)

London:	
FT 100	3571.4 (+23.5)
FTSE Mid 250	3022.2 (+16.9)
FTSE-A 250	1775.1 (+10.8)
FTSE-B 250	1412.2 (+1.78)
FT All-Share	1751.46 (+9.91)
FT Non Financials	1854.90 (+10.52)
FT Financials	1123.2 (+0.08)
FT Govt Secs	94.33 (+0.02)
Bargains	27685
SEAQ Value	691.40
USM (Dow Jones)	107.46 (+0.07)
US\$	1.5575 (+0.0079)
German Mark	2.1863 (+0.0029)
Exchange Index	624.47
Bank of England official rate (4pm)	1.699
ESOR	1.0445
150.6 Sep (5.9%) Jan 1997-100	100
149.2 Sep (5.9%) Jan 1997-100	100

## RECENT ISSUES

Abstract Asian Smi	92
Abstract Smi Cos Wst	32
Alpha Omikron	22
Arion Pros	9
BZV SpA Tesco Ets	9
Barnard VCT (100)	9
Bentfield & Rex	101
Charwell Inti	60
Cross Inti	122
David Glass (60)	70
Enterprise Inns (145)	145
Guinness Flight	91
Guinness Flight U	191
Guinness Flight W	105
Heritage Bldgs (128)	128
Indpt Radio	112
Inti Greenings	503
MultiMedia (45)	503
Northern Venture	97
Perp UK Smi C (100)	99

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Quality SP n/p (535)	107
Rhino Group n/p (8)	5
Stordata Sols n/p (12)	10
Superdata n/p (130)	81
Wellington U n/p (100)	4

## MAJOR CHANGES

VTR	114p (+20p)
Dart	118p (+17p)
Lloyds Chem	248p (+10p)
Aspen Cons	248p (+10p)
Morris Ashby	248p (+10p)
Next	436p (+17p)
BPB Ind	310p (+12p)
Sage Group	279p (+10p)
Com Union	614p (+16p)
FALLS:	
Euro Disney	194p (-21p)
Euro Leisure	170p (-4p)
Corteca	152p (-4p)
Forward Op	10p (-30p)
BICC	253p (-9p)
Vandora	549p (-15p)
Danka Bt Sys	555p (-10p)
Scotia	639p (-10p)
Charter	819p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 33

# TEMPUS

## Contractors mix and match

TARMAC and Wimpey should have delivered a single statement yesterday on their asset swap. Separated by both time and distance, Neville Simms and Joe Dwyer, the respective chief executives, made identical sermons about the need for "strategic focus" and both agreed it was a "win-win" deal. The deal would be a catalyst for an industry needing consolidation, they said. Unfortunately, no sooner had the two men finished talking than the cynics began whispering that Wimpey had the better end of the bargain. Tarmac would be hard pushed to retrieve the profits lost from selling homes and would have difficulty in squeezing decent margins out of the enlarged contracting business.

The carping criticism is a little unfair to Tarmac. The company should be given some credit for having the guts to start the consolidation process, which the whole world believes was overdue. Moreover, the assumption that there is a winner and loser assumes a short-term earnings horizon.

Neither company is prepared to forecast housebuilding profits after the recent plunge in volumes, but the City reckons Tarmac is giving up £40 million. In exchange, it is taking on profits of about £20 million from aggregates and operating losses from JCBs will be working hard to fill the hole.

Some extra profit will come from cash surpluses from Wimpey construction, but the attraction of this deal for Tarmac investors is a longer-term play on stone and gravel. Prices have been going up in spite of falling volumes and Tarmac's share of the aggregates market will soar from 19 per cent to 26 per cent with a 30 per cent share in coated stone. Consolidation should help to keep prices steady.

Meanwhile, Wimpey investors will need to have some faith in the company's ability to generate enough cash to sustain a fairly aggressive expansion programme, most of which will take place in the volatile American and Australian housing markets.

## British Gas

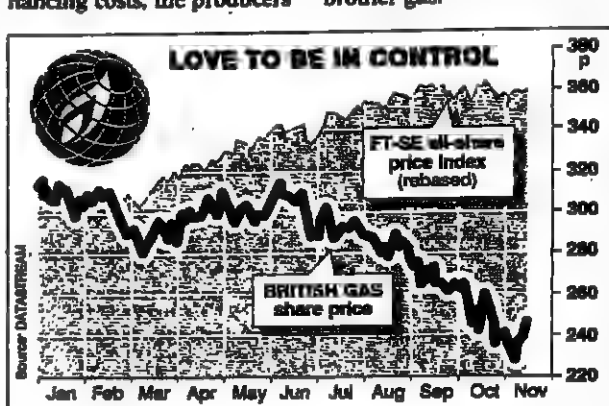
BRITISH GAS directors must be cursing the balmy autumn. Warm weather will only exacerbate the country's gas surplus and force BG to pay for fuel its customers do not need. The company is making pre-payments of £520 million this year for gas it does not need under the agreements. The pre-payments are not losses but will appear as a creditor in BG's balance sheet until it finds a buyer for the gas and takes delivery.

The problem is deteriorating cash flow; BG is paying for gas it does not yet need and there is no sign of an escape from the supply/demand imbalance. Currently, the spot price of gas is about 8p, but some in the industry believe the price is being artificially supported at that level by the oil

companies that have some control over the level of production and need to cover costs.

In the North Sea operating costs are about \$3 per barrel, which translates to about 5p per therm; these can fall to about 3p in the Southern Gas basin, but taking into account depreciation and financing costs, the producers

would earn little or nothing from selling at the spot price. BG has little control and few levers to persuade the oil companies to negotiate. It can be awkward by demanding unreasonable swings in the amount of gas it takes, but the company's best hope is that big sister oil will start to worry about the health of brother gas.



## Unigate

UNIGATE's decision to pull out of Nutricia, the Dutch clinical and infant foods company, will please shareholders. The prospect of chairman Ian Martin - responsible for GrandMet's purchase of Pillsbury - waving a £330 million cheque is guaranteed to feed the City rumour mill for some time. However, the big targets, such as Hazlewood and Dairy Crest, look out of reach for now. Instead, Unigate is more likely to bolster its foods and distribution divisions with a series of small tactical acquisitions.

The strategy is to move the company further away from a UK milk market that has gone sour, as seen by yesterday's dip in profits. Unigate has done a creditable job in swallowing the effects of the abolition last year of the Milk

Marketing Board. Less than a third of sales and profits now derive from the dairy division.

However, it is food not milk that will help Unigate to grow. Only the US restaurant business looks out of place in the portfolio, but having missed the chance to withdraw two years ago, Unigate will need some time to knock that business back into shape before it is put on the block. Unigate is now in better shape to rebuild its position at a time when the industry is at a low ebb.

## Land Securities

Property shares enjoyed a small bounce yesterday. Economists, looking at the weak retail spending figures, predicted an interest rate cut which encouraged some to believe the sector was due for long-awaited relief.

Relief for some industries perhaps, notably housebuilding, but not for large property investment companies like Land Securities. Short-term borrowing rates are irrelevant to Land Sec which, quite sensibly, finances itself at the long end of the bond market. Such companies seek to match borrowings to long income streams, namely lease that can endure for 15 years or more and short-term rates frequently move in the opposite direction to 15-year money.

Even if long bond yields fall, causing a hardening of property yields, Land Sec may have to wait for a re-rating. The company is shrinking its dividend cover to maintain growth. That will need to be rebuilt when profits recover, leaving growth prospects unexciting.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHER

COMMODITIES

LONDON

COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	93-97	Mar	104-102
Mar	94-97	May	105-102
May	94-97	Jul	105-102
Jul	101-100	Sep	105-102
Sep	102-101	Nov	105-102
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Nov	102-101	Jan	105-102



THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

### Life's lessons in gold

GOLD may not only be good for your wealth — but also your health, education, and amusement, according to the latest intelligence from the Middle East souks. Apparently, a health scare has gripped many in America who still boast their own teeth, but who have amalgam fillings. They are said to be rushing to dentists to have old fillings replaced with non-toxic gold ones.

Meanwhile, sales of the alphabet in Arabic script are booming, and the latest fad that has seen adults rushing into children's toy shops is solid gold figurines of Disney characters. Hugging a golden Mickey Mouse rather than a tired teddy bear, while learning to spell in gold, is obviously much more fun.

DAWSON International, parent company of Pringle, the knitwear group, is not the first to complain about the weather's effect on profits. Accounting for these difficulties falls to Dawson's finance director — George Fairweather.

### All change

IN WHAT it insists is not a tit-for-tat response to Merrill Lynch's poaching of its two top corporate financiers this week, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has pinched the US bank's head of European banking research, Sacha Serafinovski. It has also added three more SBC Warburg names to its rapidly growing community of former Warburgers — now over 60. Steve Bridle, Russell Duckworth and Philip Highlander are to start on Monday as head of European equities trading in London, head of pan-European leisure and alcoholic beverages research, and European equities trader, respectively.



"If we have to pay we might as well take the gas"

### Search for Ernie

MANAGING £50 billion lent by 30 million people is a serious business. Yet Treasury mandarins have still to appoint a new director of National Savings, a post which was first advertised in August. It's an important enough position that the First Lord of the Treasury — one John Major — usually approves the appointment. The position, initially for three years, commands an annual salary of £80,000, which is pretty meagre by City standards. Three outsiders and Kit Chivers, an ex-Treasury boffin who is currently acting director, are said to be on a short list. But doesn't mean anybody named Ernie can't still apply.

### Out of sync

BRITISH Airways has an odd way of rousing staff. It recently urged 45,000 employees in Britain to watch a three-minute, supposedly morale-boosting, TV advert that would include a message from the BA chiefs on high. Trouble was, the advert on Channel 4 — was booked for 3am and, for reasons beyond the airline's or Channel 4's control, BA staff who viewed it found the message was nothing more exciting than a French film with subtitles.

COLIN CAMPBELL

### ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Bull market in gilts needed to complete virtuous circle

If there were any doubts that Britain now needs a cut in interest rates — regardless of the views of the Bank of England — they should have been dispelled by the grim figures on retail sales and unemployment published yesterday. Judging by the City futures markets, this is a view with which most investors are finally beginning to agree. Eddie George's fulminations and the malignant hardness of the German mark notwithstanding.

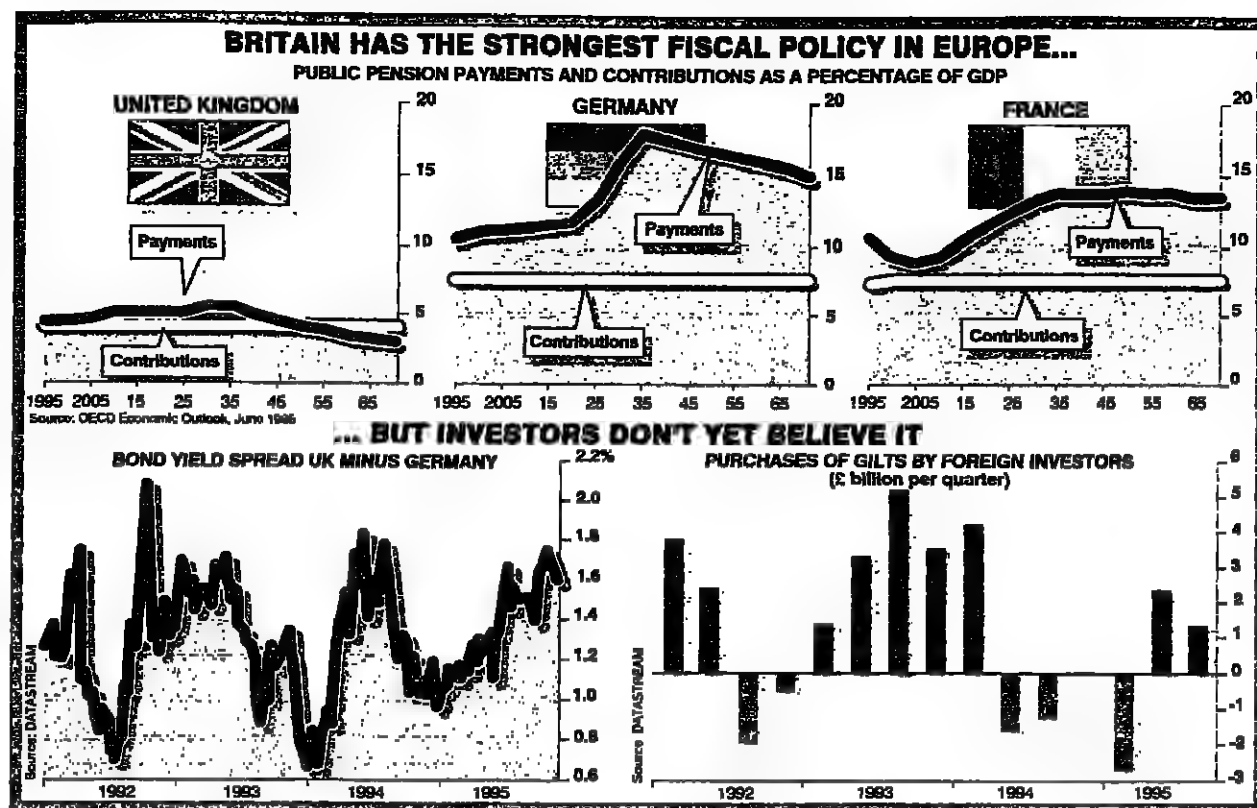
Combined with a reasonably responsible Budget (of which more below), a half-point cut in base rates before Christmas would transform the economic outlook for the year ahead and could offer the Tories their only (slim) hope of achieving some kind of political revival.

The alternative of emphasising modest tax cuts would simply draw attention to the far bigger tax increases the Tories have imposed in the past four years.

In view of this clear political calculation, if for no other reason, I expect Kenneth Clarke to make the reduction of interest rates his top priority in putting together the Budget. If I am right — and the City increasingly seems to endorse this kind of analysis — then the Budget and interest rate reduction which follows it should trigger a very powerful rally in financial markets, especially the market for gilt-edged government bonds.

A rally in gilts would, in turn, produce a very beneficial secondary impact on the whole economy and the Government's own economic strategy. By achieving lower bond yields, which the Bank of England sees as a token of "monetary credibility", Mr Clarke would not only help the economy and the Tory party, but also re-establish some harmony between the Treasury and the Bank. A further feedback loop, from improving financial sentiment to rising confidence in the Government, would complete the virtuous circle.

There is only one problem. So far, the gilt-edged market has shown little willingness to rally, at least until the past few days. Britain's domestic investors have always hated putting their money in fixed-interest bonds even though these have recently shown better risk-adjusted returns than equities.



Foreign investors, whose presence or absence has often set the tone in the gilt market, have recently shown a mysterious lack of interest in British assets.

I say "mysterious" because the economic arguments for investment in gilts are compelling, especially from an international viewpoint. Britain's long-term fiscal prospects are now the strongest in Europe and arguably the world. On a day when the French Government finally seems to be grasping the nettle of welfare and pensions reform, to the enthusiastic applause of international investors, it is worth recalling that the British Government tackled and solved all these issues many years ago.

The contrast is illustrated in the top charts, drawn from the OECD study on long-term fiscal trends which I first discussed last June. The OECD study examined what demographic changes would do to public deficits if present tax legislation remained unchanged (on an indexed basis) and if public spending continued to grow in line with past economic trends. It concluded that Britain would enjoy continuous fiscal surpluses from the year 2000 onwards. In fact, if present tax and spending policies remained in effect for the next 30 years, Britain

would be able to repay the entire national debt. Meanwhile, in France and Germany, the public debt would rise to more than 100 per cent of GDP.

Britain's prospects are remarkably good for two reasons: first, because of the remarkable efficiency of a centrally-administered National Health Service, and secondly, because, uniquely among the G7 countries, Britain has already bitten the bullet of largely privatising pensions. As a result, pensions will generate no additional pressure on the public finances with the ageing of the baby boom. In France and Germany, by contrast — and even more in Japan — demographic trends point to horrendous fiscal pressures in the next century.

Why, then, must British long-term bonds pay 1.6 percentage points more than German ones and 0.8 points more than French ones to attract investors?

There is simply too much "political uncertainty".

Some of this nervousness relates to the Budget and is understandable, albeit probably wrong. It is still just conceivable that Mr Clarke will shock the City with a big increase in public borrowing, although I think it is far more likely that the Budget will be seen as a favorable surprise: if tax cuts are bigger than £3 billion, they will be matched with bigger than expected expenditure savings (at least on paper); if there are no unexpected spending cuts, then the tax measures will be very modest.

If the above conjectures are right, then the Budget could trigger a take-off in gilts. First, however, investors will have to overcome a deeper — and less rational — political fear.

Practically every investor I speak to believes that the gilt market is bound to fall sharply if a Labour government is elected. Those who are fundamentally bullish about the post-election slump would prove an excellent time to buy gilts, especially if Tony Blair genuinely turns out to be a "new" Labour leader in the Australian or New Zealand mould. But to buy gilts before the election is to court an unacceptable degree of political risk.

This argument seems obvious, but logically it does not make sense. The opinion polls and all other political indicators now point so conclusively to a Labour victory that even the dimmest and most politically Conservative of gilt-edged investors must surely have factored this in as the most probable outcome. Of course, a year is a long time in politics and it is not impossible that John Major will do five times better than he did in the last election and close his 40 point-gap in the polls (at this stage in the last Parliament, the Tories were lagging by only eight points).

The point is, however, that nobody in the world could possibly be surprised if Labour won the next election, except Rip Van Winkle. This logically implies that a Labour win in 1997 would have no adverse effect on gilts. What would surprise investors, and therefore move markets, would be a Tory victory or even a big recovery in the polls. After the Budget, there will be only one real political "risk" in Britain: the outside chance of a Tory victory. The only possible surprise will be one that delights the markets. From next week, Anatole Kaletsky will write a column on Tuesdays as well as Thursdays.

## The last battle looms in war over figures

Robert Bruce on proposals to make financial reporting more transparent

The final battle over the future of financial reporting is about to begin. It will be the natural reaction to today's publication of the Accounting Standards Board's *Statements of Principles for Financial Reporting*. Since its inception five years ago, the ASB has been building a collection of statements to underpin its work in producing effective accounting standards to police the tarnished world of financial reporting.

These statements have been issued on a piecemeal basis, but the ASB is using today's publication of the omnibus edition to force crucial arguments into the open and to provide a framework for any future decisions. Sir David Tweedie, the ASB chairman, says: "It is, in effect, the board's compass for when we navigate uncharted waters in the years ahead." He describes it as "essential reading for those who want to know where the board is coming from."

The problem with this is that the battle lines are already drawn. Those who oppose the ASB revolution have been arguing noisily for some time. Now, they will have to come out into the open to mount serious opposition.

"There will be," said Sir David, "a hell of a fight." The ASB is, by and large, following the trend in international standard setting. It is trying to eliminate the confusion that used to arise in a company's profits and loss account when strictly non-trading figures, such as the notorious use of "extraordinary items", were lumped together with figures relating more directly to daily business.

To this end, a "statement of gains and losses" has been created. The balance sheet remains, as does the profit and loss account. The balance sheet should remain the rock on which fundamentals are founded. The profit and loss account becomes strictly the company's trading account. Everything else, such as the difference thrown up by property revaluation, will go in the statement of gains and losses. This, Sir David says, "will show the fluctuations, the come figures are less distorted. They are smoothed. It avoids the fluctuations that Sir David wants detailed and explained. Paterson accepts that such an approach can be abused, but argues that the system "needs to be regulated, not abandoned". He says: "It is naive to think that banning extraordinary items has solved the problem. It has just scattered the problem around the profit and loss account." At present, the ASB view is ascendant. However, that may simply be because much of the financial community has yet to take the revolution on board. "It is unduly complicated," says Paterson, "and it is beginning to be beyond the average businessman. So fewer and fewer people can take part in the debate." So far, the battle has gone the ASB's way, but as the corporate sector realises how different, transparent and in need of explanation their figures would be, they may find that Paterson's standard is the one they shelter behind on the battlefield.

6 Fewer and fewer people can take part in the debate

## Teaching leaders success from a room at the top

Lord Sheppard offers advice on change and risk. Alasdair Murray reports



Authors Philippe de Backer and Lord Sheppard

At first sight, asking Lord Sheppard to write a book about leadership seems a little like giving Vinny Jones a couple of hundred pages to express his views on referees.

Lord Sheppard's 11 years at the top of Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks company, have been marked by crunching takeover battles, bruising boardroom disputes and an early bath for several pretenders to the GrandMet throne. This aggressive record resulted in Lord Sheppard acquiring the title of "toughest businessman in Britain" a few years ago, a seemingly appropriate accolade for a man who once described his leadership style as "management by a loose grip of the throat".

So it comes as some surprise to find that Lord Sheppard is not entirely at home with his blood and guts reputation. He is sensitive to accusations of toughness, preferring the word courage, and believes that the corporate mythology which surrounds his stewardship of GrandMet is misleading.

"Most people misunderstand quite dramatically the culture of Grand Metropolitan," he says. "What we have created in the company is a challenge culture. We take it for granted that people challenge each other, not by issuing instructions or orders but by expressing a

point of view. I suppose to the outside we can sound terribly aggressive with each other, but it is not our characters, but the culture of the business."

It was Lord Sheppard's desire to untangle the complex relationship between business leadership, corporate culture and success that led him to become involved in a project to explore the topic with Philippe de Backer and Charles Farkas, of Bain & Co, the US consultancy. *Maximum Leadership*, the product of two years of interviews with 160 leading executives worldwide, was published this week.

The authors conclude that there are five main types of

business leadership, ranging from a strategic approach — where the chief executive concentrates on the big questions of where the company should be — to the "box" approach — where a tight set of rules and systems are established.

They even detect that certain sectors require one particular style: banks, for instance, tend to use the box approach because of the risk-management nature of the business. But the overriding message of *Maximum Leadership* is that leadership must be served *a la carte* — not as a set menu.

"After more than 40 years in business, I have come to the conclusion that management

is much an art as a science," says Lord Sheppard. "It is as much about sensing as it is about knowing."

Lord Sheppard, alluding to his own rise from humble East End origins to head of a multinational, concludes that good leadership is predominantly a triumph of nurture over nature. Of the interview subjects, he says: "Some may have been born to be leaders but most of them weren't."

No matter what leadership style the chief executive adopts, it will be ineffective without the ability to reform even the most ingrained corporate culture without removing large numbers of personnel.

"When we took over Pillsbury at the end of the 1980s, it had a very anti-risk mentality and worked on the basis that to succeed you kept your head down," explains Lord Sheppard. "We talked about wanting them to fail, to be risk takers. Within three years, the company became the top product developer in America. We did this not by changing people's characters, but by changing the company culture through training."

"Maybe we ought to write a sequel about the value of business leadership to society. The degree of community involvement we discovered is not in the book, because we concentrated on how leadership adds value to the company. But there is no way to run a modern company without being involved in the community," he says.

As if to demonstrate this point, the authors are donating part of the proceeds from *Maximum Leadership* to the Prince's Youth Business Trust, one of several charitable projects with which Lord Sheppard is involved.

## Associated British Foods

The Chairman reports on a year of progress

Sales increased by 9 per cent and profits before tax by 16 per cent.

Expenditure on new assets and subsidiaries amounted to £355 million. A major acquisition at the end of the year was a leading speciality oils and fats based food ingredients group in the United States.

A bonus issue of ordinary shares is proposed. The second interim dividend will be paid on the increased share capital, and is a 9.4 per cent increase on the previous year.

Summary of results	1995 £ million	1994 £ million
Turnover	4,894	4,478
Profit before tax	375	324
Shareholders' funds	2,258	2,090
Dividends per share (on the increased number of shares)	8.75p	8.00p

The above are extracts from the Annual Report and Accounts 1995 sent to shareholders on 15th November 1995.

Associated British Foods plc,  
Weston Centre, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LQ, England.



## Life premiums jump vindicates Group Victoire takeover

## CU French connection pays off



Carter: UK concern

COMMERCIAL Union's purchase of Group Victoire, the French insurer, was vindicated yesterday when Britain's largest insurance composite reported a huge third-quarter increase in life premiums from France.

But CU gave warning that the industry was still extremely competitive, especially in Britain. John Carter, chief executive, said: "Conditions for writing new annual premium business remain difficult in a number of markets, including the UK, reflecting the unwillingness of consumers to enter into long-term savings commitments."

Figures for the nine months to September 30 showed that life premium income from France jumped from £229 million to £1.3 billion this year, almost equalling the entire worldwide life premium income for the same 1994 period.

France contributed £358 million life premium income for July to September, an increase of 347 per cent on the same three-month period last year.

Abelie Vie, the life company within Group Victoire, contributed more than £1 billion and helped to double worldwide life premiums to £2.6 billion compared with £1.3

By MARIANNE CURPHY

billion in the first three quarters of 1994. Group Victoire has been a subsidiary since September 1994 when CU bought it for £12.3 billion and its results were consolidated for the first time in the fourth quarter of 1994.

Worldwide, pre-tax profit from life operations rose to £164 million (£105 million) out of an overall pre-tax profit of £381 million (£327 million).

The rise in pre-tax profit came despite a £12 million provision for transferring CU's direct salesforce in the UK to Abbey Life. The salesforce contributed less than ten per cent of new business. CU will

now sell through independent advisers and tied agents.

Large contributions to the life division's profits also came from the UK and from the Delta Lloyd, the Dutch life subsidiary. UK general insurance premium business was 11 per cent lower, reflecting the competitive rating environment and CU's decision to put greater emphasis on profits rather than market share.

Premiums from general insurance jumped from £3.2 billion to £3.7 billion in the nine months. Despite competition and subsidence claims in the UK, which cost £16 million more than in the same quarter

last year, general insurance profits increased by £83 million to £365 million.

Over half of all trading profits arose outside the UK, with strong performance in general insurance from France, The Netherlands, Belgium and South Africa. In the US, profits from general insurance for the nine months amounted to £38 million (£35 million), though catastrophe claims were £6 million higher in the third quarter compared with last year.

Earnings per share were 38.9p (43.2p). Earnings for 1994 were restated. CU shares ended 7p better at 605p.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Employees' perks tot up to £69bn

BRITISH businesses provide their employees with about £69 billion worth of benefits every year, according to a survey by Mintel for IFA Promotions, the organisation that represents independent financial advisers.

Pension (£20.96 billion) and social security contributions (£23.86 billion) together account for close to two-thirds of the total. Perks, such as cars, loans, luncheon vouchers, and subsidised catering, represent £16.24 billion of the total. The survey notes that the provision of such perks — "benefits in kind" — has increased 260 per cent over a ten-year period. Pension contributions, by contrast, have risen by just 77 per cent.

## 'Angel' investment rises

BUSINESS "angels" have more than doubled the amount of money they are investing in the corporate stars of tomorrow to top £16 million. The majority of investors put up £50,000 or less. Figures published yesterday by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) show that more than £35 million was invested in the venture capital sector last year, with 176 successful investments in 173 companies being made by some 330 angels as opposed to professional City fund managers.

## US output falls 0.3%

PRODUCTION from US mines, factories and utilities fell in October for the first time in six months, the Federal Reserve said yesterday, giving more evidence that the economy was slowing. Industrial output fell 0.3 per cent last month — the first decline since April and a sharper drop than anticipated by private economists — with broad declines in all main industry groups. Industry ran at 83.6 per cent of capacity in October, down from a revised 84.1 per cent in September.

## Gold demand grows

WORLDWIDE demand for gold in countries where the World Gold Council gathers information is heading for a record in 1995. In the first nine months, gold offtake in the form of jewellery, bars, coins or dental alloys, is 16 per cent higher. Year-to-date demand in developing-nation markets is 17 per cent up, at 1,355 tonnes, and in developed-nation markets is 15 per cent up, at 687 tonnes. Helen Junz, of the WGC, said 1995 will be "an absolutely banner year for gold demand".

## Optimism at VTR

VTR, the post-production specialist for the television industry, which acquired Portman Entertainment Group in September, announced pre-tax profits of £1.5 million for the year to August 31, an 11.8 per cent improvement on last year (£1.3 million). Philip Lovegrove, chairman, said he was confident about the future. Last year's success was achieved despite significant disruption incurred by the relocation of a subsidiary, Blue Post Production. A final dividend of 2.8p, up 10 per cent, will be paid on December 29.

## Trust's assets up 6.4%

NET asset value at Foreign & Colonial Income Growth Investment Trust increased by 6.4 per cent to 101.7p in the six months to September 30, but the trust said performance was hit by having avoided high-technology companies and by investing "too much too soon" in depressed sectors such as building materials and diversified industrials. The second interim dividend has been increased by 7.1 per cent to 1.5p, due on December 29. The trust plans to pay a total for the current financial year of 3.4p, up 4.6 per cent on last year.

## Dawson hit by warm weather

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WARMER weather and a jump in raw material costs have shrunk the pre-tax profits of Dawson International, the knitwear group that owns Pringle.

Dawson blamed this year's exceptionally high temperatures, which have generally kept people out of woollens. A better climate has particularly hit the tourist business in London, which is a crucial market for Pringle's traditional lines.

Throughout the year, Dawson has pulled out of selling its Pringle ranges directly, having franchised its outlets in the UK. It has closed four stores in Germany, franchised another four and is looking to dispose of its remaining one.

In the six months to September 30, group pre-tax profits plunged 43 per cent to £9 million from the same period in 1994, and the group gave warning about current trading conditions and prospects for the second half. Derek Finlay, chairman, said: "I do not expect to see a sustained upturn until our next financial year."

He said the difficult markets for winter garments had persisted into last month and the first part of this month.

The interim dividend, payable on January 10, was maintained at 1.5p.



Peter Williams, chairman, left, and Martin Lamaison, finance director, said strong exports helped Oxford Instruments to a 15.5 per cent rise in half-year profits to £9 million. The dividend, up 11 per cent to 1.9p, will be paid on March 26.

## GA wins Provident Mutual vote

By CAROLINE MERRELL

PROVIDENT MUTUAL policyholders have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the takeover by General Accident, in spite of an acrimonious meeting yesterday, where members accused the board of selling out at too low a price.

Just over 47,000 of the 200,000 members voted with 97 per cent in favour.

Provident Mutual has about 500,000 policyholders. GA will pay £170 million to buy the company, which has funds under management of £7 billion. Of this, £145 million will be paid into the Provident Mutual fund, while the rest will be used to pay a special bonus of £25 million to policyholders over three years, an average of £100 per member.

Provident Mutual was forced to seek a

company to take it over because of falling business, rising compliance costs and a low free-asset ratio. In exchange for the cash injection, GA obtains a right to 10 per cent of future profits from Provident Mutual, which will effectively become a closed fund within GA. Provident Mutual said that if it had not accepted the GA deal, it would have cost the company £20 million to stay in business.

## Pub chains aim for the market

By ALAN MURRAY

THE rush of independent pub operators to the market continued yesterday when Century Inns launched its second flotation attempt, while Tom Cobleigh, a rival chain, set an offer price of 150p a share, valuing the company at £60 million.

Earlier plans by Century to float were halted by an Office of Fair Trading investigation into wholesale beer prices, then delayed by the flotation of Enterprise Inns, another rival.

The failed float knocked £1 million from the year-end profits, which fell 12 per cent to £4.9 million, yesterday's figures showed. Operating profits were slightly up to £8.7 million.

Century is aiming to raise about £30 million from the float, valuing the company at £55 million. It will use the funds to repay £11 million of debt and continue an expansion programme, building up to about 500 pubs over the next few years. Pricing is expected on December 5.

Century owns 316 largely freehold pubs in Yorkshire and the North East, with an estate valued at £56.1 million. Tom Cobleigh has 46 outlets in Yorkshire and the east Midlands and concentrates on food sales, which supply about a third of turnover.

## ACCOUNTANCY

## An end to the tick and bash

Jonathan Burnett views a report on the use of internal auditors

THE average internal auditor is a 40-year-old male with a finance and accounting background who has been working in his internal audit (IA) department for more than four years. He spends 45 per cent of his time in his office and when he is out in the field he spends his time reviewing files, interviewing people and observing.

This is the picture of internal auditors painted by the first part of *Internal Auditing Around The World* — a two-part survey into the status of IA conducted jointly by the French Institute of Internal Auditors and Consultants (Iiac) and Arthur Andersen, the accountant. The survey was carried out in ten countries (Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, Spain, the UK and the US) and the results are based on responses from more than 1,300 companies employing more than 22,000 internal auditors.

The survey goes on to say that 40 per cent of IA departments believe that they do not have the skills to operate effectively, especially in the field of information systems. This statistic sits uncomfortably with another: that the

objective of most companies is to develop an experienced, lasting team of auditors rather than use IA as a training ground for future top managers.

This dull image of tick and bash auditors, struggling with inappropriate skills to enforce internal regulations has to end. Internal auditors should not be a burden to management within their organisation but should use their unique position to help their internal customers manage risk and run their businesses more effectively and efficiently.

Indeed, the second part of the survey captures the conclusions of not only IA directors but also finance directors and other customers on their expectations of internal audits. Though the primary objective of IA is seen as helping a company manage risks and safeguard assets, companies expect their IA function to look for improvements in productivity, to help with change and to facilitate communication between different parts of an organisation to encourage the sharing of best practice.

The survey goes on to say that while management recognises IA's expertise in internal control, auditors are still faced with three barriers to giving



Jonathan Burnett wants internal auditors better employed

their customers good service. First, they are often held back by technical barriers or internal politics; second, their reputation is one of lacking credibility and being general management's stick; and third, internal auditors are poor at demonstrating to their

customers what they do, how successful they are and the benefits to their customers. The best companies in the world are addressing these three perceived weaknesses using an innovative approach to risk management: self assessment. By positioning

themselves as skilled facilitators, internal auditors can help their customers to identify their own risks, help them to identify the best ways of controlling their risks and help them to recognise opportunities for improving their business processes. In this way, customers will begin to take responsibility for controlling their risks, leaving internal auditors to be what customers want them to be — independent consultants on business processes and control.

By facilitating their customers in this way, internal auditors will be able to demonstrate their value directly to their customers. They will be seen as being objective and independent, and will know which skills they require to meet their customers' needs, skills they may find elsewhere within their organisation.

The survey concludes customers would be better served if internal auditors were skilled at organising workshops and brainstorming sessions, benchmarking customers against best practices within and without their organisation while keeping independent and not taking on the responsibilities of their customers.

This future is a long way from the tick and bash image that hangs over many of the world's internal auditors.

Jonathan Burnett is senior manager internal audit at Arthur Andersen

## The great escape — well almost

THE English ICA (Institute of Chartered Accountants) hierarchy was profoundly shocked last week. The Auditing Practices Board, which the institute thought it had safely under lock and key at its Moorgate Place headquarters, was discovered tunnelling its way to freedom en masse.

Utter fury ensued, followed immediately by a cover-up. In pursuit, deputy president Brian Currie was seen furiously filling the tunnel in and denying there had been any attempted breakout.

I exaggerate, but not much. We are back to the old saga of why the APB is hamstrung by being stuck under the control of the accountancy bodies rather than being free and independent like the enormously successful Accounting Standards Board.

Last week, leaders of the six main UK accounting bodies met under the aegis of their consultative committee of accountancy bodies umbrella group and received an excellent and carefully argued report entitled

APB Operations Review. This was due to be published after the meeting.

Instead, there was an enormous row, mostly fuelled by Brian Currie, and the report — which dared to suggest independence — has been suppressed. Fortunately, I have a copy and can tell you just how worrying the English institute must find it.

To understand the furor, you have to understand just how defensive the English institute is about its position. It fears that with its financial reporting role now triumphantly taken up by the ASB, it has to cling to whatever is left. And what is left is the APB. It feels that to let the setting of auditing standards move away from its control would be the end of its position as a truly accountable auditing body.

This is nonsense of course. But it is the way the institute thinks. In fact, the success of the independent ASB has brought great credit to the rather beleaguered accounting profession. The fact that it is generally seen to be getting things right at a time when the profession's reputation is low should be applauded by the institute. And, more important, the institute should understand why this is so. Put simply, it is because it is independent, free of the accountancy bodies' bickering, and is led by someone with a very clear idea of what should be done and how to

do it. It is like a child moving out into the adult world and finding its feet and maturity. That is precisely what the APB now seeks to do. And why the institute is so reluctant to let it.

The report is blunt: "Board members believe strongly that, despite the involvement of the non-practitioners on the board, the board is too closely identified with the accountancy bodies and/or the major accounting firms." It says: "The board does not believe there to be any substance in this but accepts that this perception is reinforced by the present location of the APB secretariat within Moorgate Place and the arrangements whereby the staff of APB are employees of the English ICA. Members of the board believe strongly that the APB staff should be completely independent of any of the accountancy bodies, and any changes as a result of this operating review need to recognise this."

The accountancy bodies have no answer to that. They know in their heart of hearts that an independent APB would bring credit to the profession for its work. Instead, the English ICA has set up an auditing faculty which inevitably overlaps some of the APB territory and also snipes at the APB's work.

The report makes this clear. "One benefit of the board taking the leading role in the development of auditing practice," it says, "is that it avoids the potential conflicts inherent in having a profession divided between six or more accountancy bodies in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The board is in a position both to issue standards that are applicable to all involved in auditing and to act as a single widely acknowledged spokesman on good auditing practice."

This is precisely what the English ICA fears. The report suggests that areas of ethical guidance relating to auditing should come under its aegis rather than the combined accountancy bodies. The very idea of the board's independence also scuppers the hugely confused plans the English ICA has for audit regulation.

It is time the English ICA accepted the inevitable: that the APB should be independent. It must also accept that the only arguments it is putting forward to retain control of the APB are more to do with internal politics than the public interest.

## Beam me up Talbot

ARTHUR ANDERSEN boldly went last Friday evening. Its European corporate finance division took over the Science Museum and the current *Star Trek* exhibition for a contacts party. There was food from thirteen European countries but the real point was the *Star Trek* exhibition and the cream of corporate finance could be found examining Klingon costumes. The star turn was John Talbot, Andersen's European corporate

## Rent reviewed

THE English ICA is obviously charging an exorbitant rent to its illustrious tenant, the Auditing Practices Board. In the section of the latest APB report

that reviews its finances, it considers the costs of moving its offices elsewhere. "Given the current state of the central London property market, this is considered unlikely to cause any increase in cost over the current level", it states.

## Double trouble

COOPERS & LYBRAND'S turmoil at Embankment Place is as nothing to what is happening in Dubai. According to

this morning's issue of *Accountancy Age*, Cooper's extremely lucrative office out in the Gulf has been left in tatters. Or rather two warring factions of partners have set up in opposition after an enormous bust-up. Both are operating from the same address and under the same name — Coopers & Lybrand International. The only difference is that one set of partners is on the seventeenth floor and the other is on the nineteenth

floor. Clients are understood to be confused.

## Kao's theory

EXPECT more music in the quiet corridors of Arthur Andersen. One of the leading speakers at last week's Management Summit '95, which the firm sponsored, was one John Kao, a creativity expert at Harvard Business School. His thesis was that successful management needed to behave like jazz musicians in a jam session.

ROBERT BRUCE



ROBERT BRUCE



NOVEMBER 16 1995

ROUNDUP

# s' perks 69bn

their employees with about 50 per cent of the cost of their pension plans, according to a survey by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The survey found that the average company spends about 50 per cent of the cost of its pension plan on its employees, while the rest is paid by the company. This is a significant increase from the 1980s, when companies typically paid only 20 per cent of the cost of their pension plans.

# ment rises

the amount of the average company's pension plan has risen by 10 per cent since 1990, according to a survey by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The survey found that the average company spends about 50 per cent of the cost of its pension plan on its employees, while the rest is paid by the company. This is a significant increase from the 1980s, when companies typically paid only 20 per cent of the cost of their pension plans.

# alls 0.3%

the Bank of England has cut its base rate by 0.3 per cent to 5.5 per cent, the lowest level since 1992. The move is part of the bank's efforts to stimulate the economy and reduce inflation. The bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 6-3 in favour of the cut.

# d grows

the World Bank has announced that it will increase its lending to developing countries by 10 per cent over the next five years. The bank's president, James Wolfensohn, said that the increase was necessary to help these countries meet their development needs.

# VTR

the Video Trade Review (VTR) has been set up to investigate the impact of video on the film industry. The VTR will be led by Lord Hailsham, a senior member of the House of Lords. Its terms of reference are to "examine the impact of video on the film industry and to make recommendations on how the industry can best respond to the challenge."

# s up 6.4%

the average company's pension plan has risen by 6.4 per cent since 1990, according to a survey by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The survey found that the average company spends about 50 per cent of the cost of its pension plan on its employees, while the rest is paid by the company. This is a significant increase from the 1980s, when companies typically paid only 20 per cent of the cost of their pension plans.

# ape st

the report makes it clear that the UK is not doing well in the global economy. It says that the UK's productivity is falling behind that of other major economies, and that this is a serious threat to the country's long-term economic health. The report also points out that the UK's education system is not doing well, and that this is another area where the country is falling behind.

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## Failure to comply not an abuse of process

**Ashworth v McKay Foods Ltd**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Thorpe  
Judgment November 10

Where a plaintiff had failed to comply with the automatic directions provided by Order 17, rule 1(3) of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687/1230) but had requested a hearing date within 15 months of the date on which pleadings were deemed to have been closed, his request was not to be struck out as an abuse of the court's process.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendants, McKay Foods Ltd, from Judge Battenby, who, sitting at Towerbridge County Court, had refused their application, made on expiry of the 15-month period, to set aside the request of the plaintiff, June Ashworth, on the ground of non-compliance with Order 17, rule 1(3) and under the court's inherent jurisdiction for abuse of process and to strike out her action claiming damages for personal injuries.

The plaintiff had begun her action in September 1993 and under the applicable timetable pleadings were deemed to be closed in November 1993. She had failed to comply with the automatic directions by which she was bound, *inter alia*, to give discovery; to file a statement of special damages with her particulars of claim; to disclose expert's reports and witness statements within the prescribed time and to request a hearing date within six months of the date on which the timetable began to operate.

In December 1994, within the 15-month period, the plaintiff's solicitors wrote to the county court requesting a hearing date and expressing their understanding that the normal practice of that county court was to convene a pre-

trial review where, as here, the time estimate exceeded five hours.

The county court responded by indicating that the action came within the ambit of the practice adopted in the Bath area and by giving a hearing date for that review.

Mr Timothy O'By, for the defendants: Mr Nigel Hamilton, QC and Mr Mark A. Horton for the plaintiff.

**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS**, giving the judgment of the court, said that Order 17, rules 1 to 10 governed the conduct of a pre-trial review in any action where such a review was held.

Rule 1(2) made clear that rules 1 to 10 did not apply to automatic directions which applied to an action from the date of the pre-trial review was ordered pursuant to any direction given under rule 1(4)(a) and directions were then given superseding, varying or in some way displacing the prescribed automatic directions.

The object of the automatic directions regime was to stamp on the unjustifiable delay only too frequently seen in personal injury litigation and to ensure at the very least that there could be no delay beyond 15 months of the date of the pre-trial review to the court having the opportunity to consider and give authoritative directions for the future conduct of the action.

That was so whether the action was governed by the automatic directions regime or the pre-trial review regime. Where the former regime applied it was obviously intended that the preparation of the action should proceed by logical, orderly, mutual and time-limited steps from pleading to discovery to preparation for trial to requesting a trial date within six months.

The additional nine-month period in rule 1(4) was a period of grace before the guideline fell, but a party failing to request a hearing

date within six months was in breach unless a date had been already fixed.

It was impossible on the present facts to hold that the plaintiff had substantially complied with the rules. The conduct of her action was plainly such as to frustrate the beneficial objects which those who framed the rules had intended to achieve. But was it an abuse of the process?

Having referred to *Ashmore v British Coal Corporation* [1990] 2 QB 338; *Culbert v Stephen G. Westwell & Co Ltd* [1993] PIQR P54 and *Teale v McKay* [1994] PIQR P508, the court considered that where a plaintiff could be shown to have acted in willful or contumacious disregard of the rules or in bad faith or for ulterior reasons, it might be possible to establish an abuse of the process.

However, the court would not accept that in a case governed by Order 17, rule 1(1) mere failure to comply with the rules, without more, could amount to an abuse of process.

A 15-month limit, applicable in virtually every case, had been applied to the possible period of delay; and

2 It could not have been intended that the court should have had repeatedly to investigate where there had been compliance with rule 1(3)(d) within the 15-month period, the reasons underlying earlier failure to comply with the time limits for complying with automatic directions.

The second question on the appeal concerned the effect, if any, of the local practice of ordering a pre-trial review on receipt of a request to fix a hearing date in certain classes of case.

It was plain that in an action to which Order 17, rule 1(1) applied, the parties were bound to comply with the automatic directions laid down by rule 1(3) unless the court of its own motion or on application of any party, gave further or different

directions or orders under rule 1(4)(a).

The adoption of the local practice could not of itself amount to an order that a pre-trial review should be held, although the court accepted that the notice sent to the parties amounted to the making of such an order.

However, neither the making of that order nor the expectation that such an order would be made could begin to excuse the parties' failure to comply with the automatic directions up to then.

The history of the case illustrated how beneficial pre-trial reviews could be in progressing cases forward to trial; but that history showed that much of the potential benefit was lost if the court took no step to order a pre-trial review until the plaintiff, well outside the six-month period but just within the 15-month period, belatedly requested a hearing date.

By then much time had elapsed, perhaps unnecessarily. The practice in different county courts varied, and much might depend on the resources, human and electronic, available in different places.

The court referred to the practice in the Central London County Court in personal injury cases involving claims in excess of £1,000, that where:

1 On receipt of the defence, the parties were sent a variant of form N 450, and were allocated a fixed date for trial not less than 40 weeks ahead.

2 By step 4 of the form both parties were required not later than 12 weeks from the start of the timetable to complete and send to the court a listing information form and were required to apply to the court for extension of the timetable where expert medical witnesses were unavailable to attend court by the last day of the fourth week.

3 The listing information form, also sent to the parties, required each party's estimate of the length

of the case, the likely number of witnesses, confirmation that they had been informed of the date fixed for the hearing, and any special features relevant to listing of the particular case.

4 If the parties failed to return that form by the due date, the court automatically fixed a hearing date for a pre-trial review, explaining that such a course enabled the court to control the progress of the case to avoid unnecessary delays.

The advantages of such a system were:

1 The parties had a trial date to which to work from delivery of the defence.

2 Both parties were required to send in their estimates 12 weeks after commencement of the timetable.

3 If they did not complete the listing information form then the court automatically stepped in.

4 All the satellite striking out litigation presently clogging the courts could become a thing of the past once the court routinely took control early about the parties' show that they were not working to the trial date; and

5 Unnecessary delay and unnecessary and expensive satellite litigation might be squeezed out of it, was highly desirable and should be followed where practicable.

The court invited the directors of study of the Judicial Studies Board to examine the workings of the Central London scheme in practice, to see whether any other court centres had improvements on it and to consider whether it was practicable and desirable that the board should recommend a national practice in that regard.

The local practice adopted by the county court in the present case had no effect on the outcome of the appeal.

Solicitors: Warneboroughs Willey Hargrave, Bristol; Farfield & Nicholls, Warrminster.

**Gahan v Szerelmei (UK)**

**Lid and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Sir Christopher Slade  
Judgment October 26

A defendant seeking to have a personal injury action against him struck out on the ground that the plaintiff's delay had caused him financial prejudice had to bring into account the value of having in hand the money which, but for the delay, he would have had to have paid to the plaintiff. Any difficulty he had in making such computation might deter him from relying on that kind of prejudice except in the clearest and most obvious of cases.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Dermot M. Gahan, from the order of Sir Peter Webster, sitting in chambers as a judge of the High Court on December 1, 1994, striking out for want of prosecution his personal injury claim against the first defendant, Szerelmei (UK) Ltd, and the second defendant, Mattison Scaffolding and Crane Contractors.

Mr Peter Birt, QC and Mr Adrian Jack for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Methuen for the first defendant; Mr Simon King for the second defendant.

**LORD JUSTICE NOURSE** said that the question was whether a defendant who claimed that the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay had caused him financial prejudice of the kind identified in *Hayes v Bowman* [1989] 1 WLR 456 and *Doyle v Robinson* [1994] PIQR 59 had to bring into account the value to him of having in hand the money which, but for the delay, he would have had to pay to the plaintiff by way of damages.

The plaintiff, employed by the first defendant, sustained injuries in 1988 falling from scaffolding erected by the second defendant. The writ was issued in 1990. The judge found delay of about two and a half years by the

plaintiff from 1991 when the action should have been set down until the defendants' striking out summonses were issued in 1994.

Having been satisfied that that delay was inordinate and inexcusable he said that it looked as if there would be a difference of between £12,000 and £15,000 over and above the award of damages which would have been given of about £100,000 had the trial taken place in 1992.

The judge then went on to say: "Counsel for the plaintiff asks me to offset against those differences the monetary benefit which he says the defendants will have enjoyed by having the use of the money ultimately to be paid in damages if an award is made for three years before that happens, and he makes a number of calculations about the value of the returns on investments which the defendants would obtain; but I refuse to take this suggested set-off into account."

He concluded that it was likely that the defendants would suffer more than minimal financial prejudice on account of the delay and affirmed the two orders made by Master Turner striking out the plaintiff's claim.

Thus what was in dispute was the judge's view that in assessing the extent of the financial prejudice there had to be left out of account the value to the defendant of having in hand the money which, but for the delay, he would have had to pay to the plaintiff by way of damages.

If the question was viewed as one of principle it admitted of only one answer. The value to the defendant must be brought into account. If it was not, the prejudice would be assessed by reference to a balance sheet consisting only of liabilities.

True, it might be difficult to value the assets, far more difficult than to state the liabilities, but that was no reason for leaving them out of account.

In *Hayes v Bowman* it was accepted by the defendant that to make a fair comparison, the defen-

dant should give credit for the use which he or his insurers would have had of the money eventually awarded during the period of the delay (pp 462 and 465).

Proceeding on that footing, Lord Justice Slade said (at p 469) that if the true prejudice to the defendant was to be ascertained, there had to be set against the sum which would be awarded at the delayed trial (a) the fall in the spending power of money during the period of the delay and (b) the interest and/or capital appreciation which the defendant or his insurers would have been able to earn in respect of the sum which would have been awarded at a trial held timely, if they had retained it in their hands over the period of the delay.

The defendants submitted that in *Hayes* the point went by way of concession and, moreover, by a concession which was wrongly made. They relied on *Doyle v Robinson* in which there was hardly a trace of the point having been taken and they argued from that that it had to be a bad one.

There was nothing of substance in the defendants' arguments. It was for a defendant to show that the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay had given rise to serious prejudice to him and if he alleged the kind of financial prejudice which he alleged here, he could not do so by relying on a one-sided balance sheet.

The assets had to be computed as stated by Lord Justice Slade in *Hayes v Bowman*. Any difficulties there might be in making the computation went to the weight to be given to the evidence, not to the principle of not making it. They might be a means of deterring defendants from relying on such prejudice except in clear and obvious cases.

The appeal should be allowed so that the plaintiff's action could proceed against both defendants. Lord Justice Hobhouse and Sir Christopher Slade gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Zladis, Stockwell; Mackrell Turner Garrett; Vizards.

## Substitution of party is not new claim for time limit

**Yorkshire Regional Health Authority v Fairclough Building Ltd and Another**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett  
Judgment November 11

The substitution of a new party under Order 15, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court did not involve the making of a "new claim" as defined in section 35(2) of the Limitation Act 1980.

Order 15, rule 7 was concerned with the substitution of a party who had succeeded to a claim or liability already represented in existing proceedings, which raised no question of limitation, and was wholly outside the scope of section 35 and the code provided by Order 15, rule 6(4) to (6). Accordingly, section 35 did not deprive the court

of jurisdiction to order the substitution of a new party under Order 15, rule 7 after the expiry of the relevant limitation period.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the second defendants, the Percy Thomas Partnership, from an order of Judge Humphrey Lloyd, QC, sitting on official referee's business on May 11, 1994 whereby he gave leave to the plaintiffs, Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, to amend the writ and statement of claim by substituting Bradford Hospitals National Health Trust for YHRA as plaintiffs, pursuant to Order 15, rule 7.

Order 15, rule 7 provides: "(2) Where at any stage of the proceedings in any cause or matter the interest or liability of any party is assigned or transmitted to or

devolves upon some other person, the court may, if it thinks it necessary in order to ensure that all matters... may be effectually and completely determined and adjudicated upon, order that other person to be made a party to the cause or matter and the proceedings to be carried on as if he had been substituted for the first mentioned party."

Section 35 of the 1980 Act provides: "(2) In this section a new claim means... (a) the addition or substitution of a new cause of action; or (b) the addition or substitution of a new party."

Mr John Blackburn, QC and Mr Martin Bowdler for the second defendants; Mr Nicholas Dennis, QC and Mr Andrew Goddard for the plaintiffs.

**LORD JUSTICE MILLETT** said that the question was whether section 35 of the 1980 Act had deprived the court of jurisdiction to order that a party be substituted for another in the circumstances provided for by Order 15, rule 7 after the expiry of a relevant period of limitation.

The question had led to conflicting decisions in the Commercial Court. In *Toprak Enerji Sanayi AS v Sale Tinley Technology plc* [1994] 1 WLR 840 Judge Diamond, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, expressed the view that section 35 had that retroactive effect. That decision was cited to the judge in the present case but he had declined to follow it.

In *Industrie Chimiche Italia Centrale v Alexander G. Tadiaris & Sons Maritime Co (The Choko Star)* [1994] 1 WLR 840, 845 Mr Justice Mann had also declined to follow it.

Before their Lordships three questions had been argued: 1 Was the substitution of the trust for YHRA a "new claim" within the meaning of section 35 of the 1980 Act? 2 If so, was there power under Order 15, rule 7 to allow the substitution of the trust after the expiry of the limitation period? 3 If so, did the judge er in principle in exercising his discretion to order the substitution.

The second defendants' argument was simplicity itself. The trust's claim, they submitted, fell squarely within the second limb of section 35(2) as "the addition or substitution of a new party". The trust was a new party. It was, they submitted, as simple as that. It was not however, as simple as that. Closer analysis showed that

section 35(2) could not be construed literally. That was because the remainder of section 35 assumed that the two limbs of the subsection were mutually exclusive.

In his Lordship's view, the antithesis was between a claim which involved the addition or substitution of a new party and one which did not.

The first limb must therefore be confined to claims which involved a new cause of action but which did not involve the addition or substitution of a new party. Claims which involved the addition or substitution of a new party as well as a new cause of action fell within the second limb.

The question was whether the second limb also included claims which involved the addition or substitution of a new party but which did not involve a new cause of action. In his Lordship's opinion it did not.

There were two entirely different kinds of substitution provided for by the rules, one where the party substituted had succeeded to a claim or liability already represented in the action, and one where he had not. It would be outside the scope of the 1980 Act to permit the law relating to the former kind of substitution, which involved no question of limitation, to be applied, therefore, to the substitution of a new party under Order 15, rule 7 did not involve the making of a new claim as defined in section 35(2) of the Limitation Act 1980 and was not affected by anything in that section.

Lord Justice Evans delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Nourse agreed with both.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards; Leeds: Mr W. J. M. Lovel, Harrogate.

## Single advocate cannot present conflicting views

**In re P (Minors) (Representation)**

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Thorpe and Sir Ralph Gibson  
Judgment November 8

It was impossible for a single advocate to advance a plan proposed by a local authority in care proceedings and at the same time to represent the interests of a child opposed to the care plan.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the guardian ad litem against a decision of Mr Justice Douglas Brown on October 26, 1995 refusing to allow S, aged 14, the second of seven children the subject of care proceedings, to be represented separately from her younger siblings in the proceedings.

Mr Roderic Wood, QC, for the guardian ad litem; Miss Indira Ramasahay for Westminster City Council.

**LORD JUSTICE THORPE** said all seven children had originally been represented by Mr Clive Matthews. A guardian ad litem had been appointed and had applied for the eldest child to be represented by a different solicitor.

The guardian and Mr Matthews had seen S to obtain her views on the care plan filed by the local authority and she had rejected the proposals. The guardian and Mr

Matthews had sought leave of the judge to be separately represented.

Although sympathetic to the application, the judge had refused on the single ground that the matter had been raised so late in the proceedings that to arrange separate representation would do little to help.

In fact, solicitors and counsel had since been found who could represent S separately at the fixed hearing. Had the judge been in possession of the full facts he would not have refused the application.

The judge had urged Mr Matthews to use his forensic judgment and skill, and do his best to represent not only the other children but S as well. That was a wish incapable of due performance. The confusion to which such a road led was illustrated by an extreme case in *re H* [1993] 1 FLR 440.

In truth it was impossible for a single advocate to advance the position advocated by a local authority in care proceedings and at the same time to represent the interests of a child opposed to the care plan.

Lord Justice Russell and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Farrell Matthews & Weir, Harrogate; Miss Jacqueline V. Harris, Westminster.

## Order against Crown

**Firglen Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment**

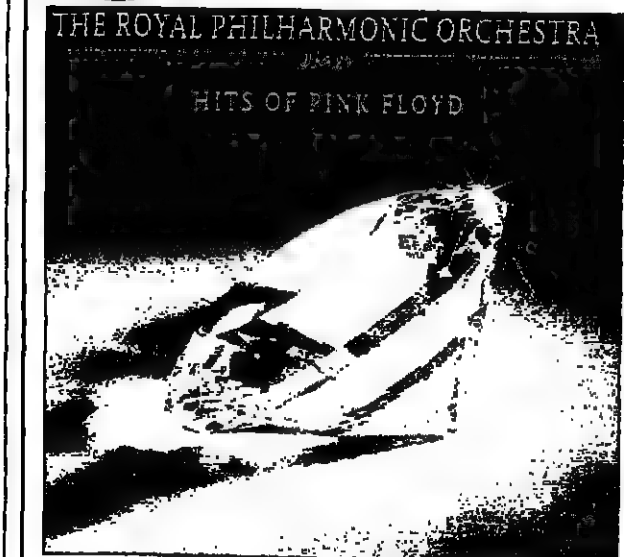
An action for specific performance of a contract to sell land, initiated by a writ issued out of the Queen's Bench Division by the plaintiff company against the defendant, was a civil proceeding against the Crown within sections 21 and

23(2)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division on October 24 when discharging an interim injunction granted ex parte on circuit by Mr Justice Gage forbidding the Secretary of State for the Environment from selling certain premises in Bradford.

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NEW FILMS

**Pari**

The film 'Pari' is a French production directed by Jean-Pierre L  aud. It stars Jean-Pierre L  aud and is a comedy-drama. The film is set in Paris and follows the story of a man who is a professional gambler. The film is a classic French film and is highly recommended.

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FILM 1

**La Haine** is a brilliant portrait of disaffected French youth in revolt against thuggish authority



FILM 2

Keanu Reeves's attempt to broaden his repertoire falls flat in the soggy idyll of *A Walk in the Clouds*



FILM 3

**Kaspar Hauser** portrays an enigmatic figure in German history with compelling depth and detail



FILM 4

... but Hollywood comedy seems to be getting dumber: now comes the gormless *Tommy Boy*

NEW FILMS: Geoff Brown admires the dispatches from France's urban battleground

# Paris has its mean streets too

The young French actor and director Mathieu Kassovitz was apparently keen for *La Haine* (Hate) to be banned, or at least subjected to the censor's scissors. "La Haine is an anti-cop film," he said, "and I want it to be taken as such."

It must have been quite galling, then, for him to find the Establishment smothering him with kisses. At Cannes in May, Kassovitz picked up the Best Director award for this powerful, high-voltage portrait of volatile youth on a Paris housing estate. On its release in June, French critics stacked up the superlatives. Crowds stampeded screenings. Dinner tables resounded with talk of Kassovitz, and Jacques Chirac wrote an appreciative letter.

The film made such an impact partly because it acknowledges that urban life is not the bed of roses that much French cinema depicts. It thrusts audiences to the outer suburbs, where ethnic tensions erupt and high-rise estates squat, unlovely, unloved; where youngsters with no horizons fill the hours with petty crime, fuelling resentment at a police force easily pushed into thuggery or racist abuse. *La Haine* recognises that not everyone speaks in gilded phrases; the words tumbling out are couched in verlan, a syllable-reversing form of slang. No comfortable colour to sink into, either: this is in harsh black-and-white.

As we join the characters, the estate still summers from rioting prompted by the brutal treatment of an Arab youth in police custody. Residents and police pester each other: loud music blares, and louder insults. Three youngsters emerge in the foreground: Vinz (impulsive), Said (hyperactive) and Hubert (thoughtful). So does a handgun, left by the police. All four go into Paris for the night. Not everyone returns alive.

Kassovitz, a 28-year-old with one feature, *Métisse*, behind him, claims no formal cinema training. Whatever he knows comes from watching movies, feet probably dangling over the row in front. Scorsese's *Mean Streets*, Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, the forceful imagery of Spielberg: these are Kassovitz's influences, and they give *La Haine* much of its visual power. He knows how to handle actors, too: you feel the electric sparks as his three leads, played by Vincent Cassel, Hubert Kounde and Said Taghmaoui, trade slang and collide with the world.



Vincent Cassel, Said Taghmaoui and Hubert Kounde on collision course with the world in *La Haine*, a powerful portrait of volatile youth

twaddle since... well, memory fails me.

Reeves presumably thought he was broadening his range by playing a sensitive soldier who returns from the Second World War to an uninterested wife and becomes embroiled with a proud Mexican family in Napa Valley. But this soggy idyll has scant appeal to anyone who thrilled to *Speed*, and only highlights the actor's limitations. Equally, the film does little for Alfonso Arau, the Mexican director in Hollywood's embrace after his wildly overrated *Like Water for Chocolate*. That film camouflaged his visual gaudiness with a fantastical plot plus sexual trimmings. Now he, too, lies exposed.

There is a good reason why the story appears old-fashioned. Behind the script lies *Four Steps in the Clouds*, a 1942 Italian film that won many friends with its simple lyricism, and once inspired Alexander Korda to consider a remake with Ralph Richardson. Now the lyricism has turned to bathos. You can hear it in Reeves's voice: see it in the golden photography, the bulging grape crushing, and the jovial patriarch played by Anthony Quinn — one of a team found, in the production note's phrase, after a "year-long international search".

What kind of search scours the globe and then picks Anthony Quinn? At least Arau's hunting party returned with one trophy, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon, a Spanish actress whose beauty deserves a better outlet than a girl in love with a sack of potatoes, which is how poor Keanu appears. Arau also bagged the Italian Giancarlo Giannini for the girl's unyielding father, though the role is pitched too close to caricature to allow him to shine. What does shine, boringly, is the sun: it streaks through trees, blazes down on the vineyard, fills the sky with orange. Is this a film, or a wine commercial?

Werner Herzog's 1974 film *The Enigma of Kaspar* was one of cinema's visionaries. Sehr, previously known for *The Serbian Girl*, is a plodder by comparison; but his film takes such a different

**La Haine**  
Lumière, 15, 97 mins  
*Boys 'n' the hood come to Paris*  
**A Walk in the Clouds**  
Odeon Haymarket, PG, 103 mins  
*Vacuous romance with Keanu Reeves*  
**Kaspar Hauser**  
MGM Piccadilly, 18, 125 mins  
*Absorbing account of the German enigma*  
**Tommy Boy**  
Plaza, PG, 97 mins  
*Hollywood gets dumb and dumber*  
**Institute Benjamin**  
ICA Cinema, 105 mins  
*Haunting images from the Brothers Quay*

tack that there is easily room for his own *Kaspar Hauser*. Herzog cherishes the enigma, and contemplates innocence defiled by society. Sehr puts the enigma in context, and pulls us into the power games played by princes, dukes and one English lord (Jeremy Clyde), who takes up Kaspar's cause for his own ends.

Luckily, there is more to the film's texture than plush wallpaper. Characters suffer from bile and gangrene. And Sehr gives the story a human dimension. Eisemann's Kaspar may be putty, but we care how he is moulded. The Nuremberg doctor who takes him in teaches him speech and equality. Stanhope preaches class distinction and fancy phrases. No good comes of this: at the end, Kaspar is sapped of all spirit.

A sobering tale, this, and Sehr's straightforward style offers little decoration. But the film commands respect: I can think of many worse ways of spending a November night.

Like watching *Tommy Boy*, the latest Hollywood comedy to enthrone stupidity. Chris Farley's Tommy, heir to an auto parts factory, is not only an idiot. He is also fat. You can guess the hilarity, therefore, when he changes clothes in an aircraft too. Farley and his sidekick David Spade hail from *Saturday Night Live*, but this lowbrow vehicle has none of the goofy charm that made *Wayne's World* a viable spin-off.

Stupidity is not an issue with *Institute Benjamin*, the first excursion into live action by the British-based Brothers Quay, enigmatic masters of puppet animation. A plot of sorts about a school for servants lies somewhere inside, derived from the writings of Robert Walser. But you never feel human beings are involved: Mark Rylance, Alice Krige and the rest are treated like objects, placed next to forks, stag horns and dripping water in an incredible symphony of light and shade. The pace is slow though never static, and the black-and-white

photography of Nic Knowland often takes the breath away. The film's meaning? Death, decay and nothingness appear to be the themes. One viewing is not enough to be sure. The good news is that the film is sufficiently haunting not to deter a second look.

Also released this week is

*The Scarlet Letter*, a lubricious treatment of Nathaniel Hawthorne's book featuring Demi Moore and several bubble baths. It has not been shown to the critics, though every bus stop in London carries its advertisement. Is that good news or bad news? I will report back next week.

## Why is Felix just a stray?

As European cinema slaps itself on the back, David Robinson wonders why so few people care

This is the month of self-acclaim for the European cinema. Last week the Geneva Film Festival presented its competition to nominate the best new European actor and actress — "Les Espoirs" — of the year. On Sunday, the European Film Academy held its awards ceremony in Berlin: the Felix for best European film went to the British director Ken Loach for *Land and Freedom*.

When the Felix was created eight years ago, it was intended as Europe's equivalent of the Oscar. But while the Oscars dominate the world news media for weeks on end, the Felix is lucky to get so much as an end-of-column agency report in the major European newspapers. This disparity is no reflection on the prestige of the award itself, but rather a symptom of the flaws in the Utopian dreams of a pan-European cinema.

The theory underlying these dreams is that Europe not only offers a larger market than America but possesses vast resources of film talent. Nevertheless, more than 90 per cent of European screens are permanently taken up by American films, and the figure is creeping up day by day. Outside London, for instance, it is hard for English audiences to see *Land and Freedom*, and rarer still to see subtitled European films.

In the early years the Felix awards aimed to emulate the glamour of the Oscars, but public interest in the European event rapidly waned. In consequence, the Felix ceremony has had to adapt, to become more modest and private, though still prestigious affair. This year it was held at a lunch in a Berlin cabaret theatre.

The runners-up were Theo Angelopoulos's *Ulysses Gaze* and Eric Rohmer's *Les Rendez-vous de Paris* (which can be seen at the London Film Festival on Sunday). The Best Young European Film was Mathieu Kassovitz's *La Haine*, released in Britain tomorrow (reviewed, left). A British film, Michael Winterbottom's *Butterfly Kiss*, was a runner-up in this category.

By contrast with the Felix awards, the Geneva festival goes from strength to strength, thanks to its simple notion of being a competition not for films but for young actors and actresses.

The best actor prize went to an extrovert young Russian, Vladimir Machkov, playing a computer pirate in the cut-throat underworld of the new Russia, in Denis Evstigneiev's debut feature, *Limbo*. The winning actress was a Basque pop singer, Najwa Nimry, in her first film role, as a shaven-headed teenage gangster in another debut feature, the Spaniard Daniel Calparsoro's *Jump into the Void*. The critics' prize went to a British actor, Reece Dinsdale, for his role in Philip Davis's *I.D.*

However, the outstanding personality of the festival was Catherine Klein, from France. Both the main and the press prizes gave her special awards for her dazzling versatility.

Klein co-wrote Philippe Faucon's *Muriel fait le desespoir de ses parents*, and dominates the film in the title role as a 17-year-old provincial girl in Paris, coming to terms with her own sexuality. The festival also showed a short dramatic film, *Ravin*, directed by the 24-year-old Klein. She was certainly one of the brightest personalities in European film this year.

Chris holding CD case up. ...ACTUALLY, CAN YOU GET ME THIS ON VINYL. HAVE WE GOT THIS ON VINYL? Yeah there's one in the box Jamie fetches. Vanessa Paradis 7-inch ...but I don't think the turntable is working, Chris. DON'T WORRY. RECORD PLEASE... puts record on turntable and needle on record But the turntable's bust...I DON'T WANT TO PLAY IT, I'M JUST GOING TO SMASH IT FOR THE FRENCH PROTEST.

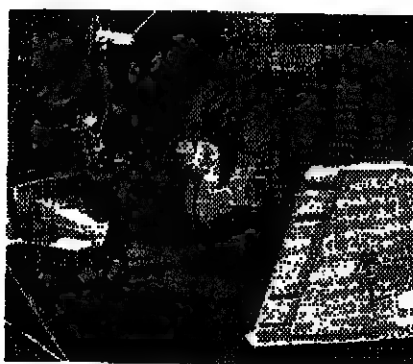
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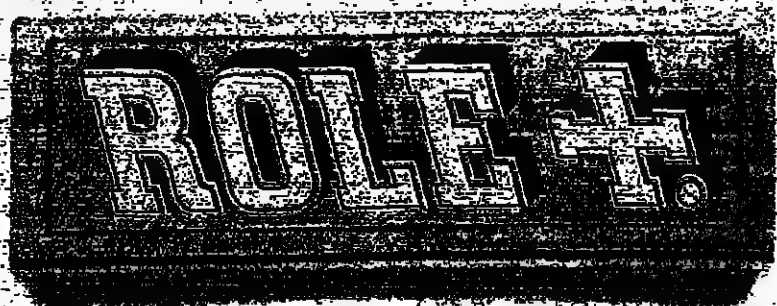
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THEATRE

**Dame Diana is no weather-flayed crone, but her Mother Courage finally convinces at the National**

DANCE

**Swan Lake is given a sex change and a thrilling new lease of life at Sadler's Wells**

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC

**A Chopin and Schumann recital at the Festival Hall finds Maurizio Pollini in lacklustre form**

TOMORROW

**Reviews of all the new pop albums, including the latest from Bruce Springsteen**

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

What happened to the fireworks?

A recital given by a pianist of the supreme artistry of Maurizio Pollini is unlikely to be a wasted evening. And yet I think I was not alone in experiencing a sense of disappointment with his Festival Hall recital on Tuesday night. True, the hall was packed, and, true, the final chords of Chopin's Sonata in B flat minor brought generous applause. But the hall emptied alarmingly quickly and little attempt was made to persuade Pollini to offer more than one short encore.

The programme itself may have been partly to blame. A couple of Chopin Nocturnes, in addition to the Sonata, plus two pieces by Schumann (the Allegro, Op 8, and the Fantasia in C, Op 17) provide a musically satisfying programme, though one without any real danger. Maybe we have been hearing too many Young Turks pounding the keyboard recently, but Pollini's playing lacked sheer visceral excitement, and even climactic passages seemed underpowered.

This was particularly a problem in the Chopin Sonata, where thunderous fortissimo cadences went for little, and where forte/piano alternations in the first movement emerged with very little dynamic contrast. Nor was the leaping final section of the Fantasia's second

**Maurizio Pollini Festival Hall**

movement quite the firework display it should be. Of course, there were compensations aplenty. The two Nocturnes of Op 27 were delivered with consummate grace: a pellucid, supple singing line floated over a discreet, arpeggiated accompaniment. The Presto triplet finale of the Sonata also afforded a breath-catching couple of minutes.

An even more magical moment occurred in the preceding *Fantasia*, when the major-key middle section was unfolded with the exquisitely refined poetic expression of which Pollini is a master. In the final movement of the Schumann Fantasia, too, the mediant modulations were handled with wonderful delicacy, as though a window were being opened on a succession of spellbinding new horizons.

For all this one can be duly grateful. Impossible, though, not to feel short-changed by the lack of energy, the half-hearted propulsion of movements such as the scherzo of the Chopin Sonata. Was Pollini tired? Or was he saving himself for the CD signing in the foyer afterwards?

**BARRY MILLINGTON**

Perfectly sweet

One of the few occasions when the Vienna Boys Choir abandon their sailor suits in public is when they pipe themselves aboard *The Golden Vanity*. The black patent leather pumps are discarded for deck shoes; the red, white and navy-blue sweaters of jolly Jack tars, and the bright waistcoats and golden earrings of the pirates fly the flag for Benjamin Britten and the vaudeville wrote for them to perform at the Aldeburgh Festival nearly 30 years ago.

Everything was shipshape at the start of their British tour. The stage of the Festival Hall was transformed into the rusty barques of the good British sailors and the dastardly Turkish pirates. Piping voices told the tale of the cabin boy who, in order to win the hand of the captain's daughter, sabotages the pirate ship and receives no more for his pains than a broken promise and a briny grave. Voices were true, actions stylised and obedient. Even the pirates were an exemplary crew.

Apart from a visit to Gainsby, this is about as near as the lads will get to the sea. And that is perhaps more musically significant than it may at first seem. For I have a notion that the landlocked metricality of their own prosody makes it genuinely difficult for these young voices to return to the wayward bluster of our windswept island language. As it

**Vienna Boys Choir Festival Hall**

ebbed and flowed through the salty veins of Purcell and Britten it met a certain resistance in the metronomic direction of Thomas Böcher and the rigidly phrased obedience of the boys.

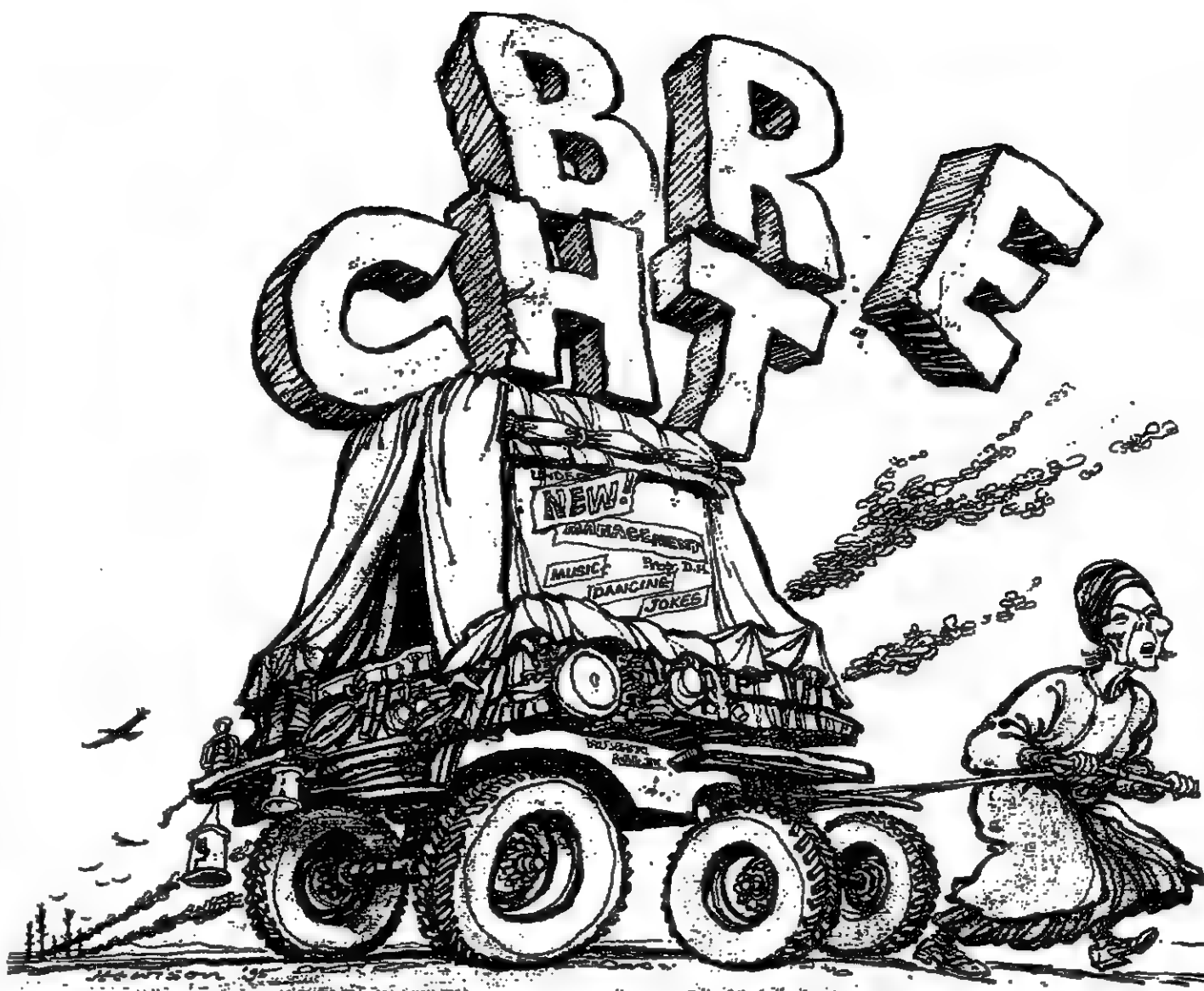
This alone, though, could not quite explain the total lack of style and idiom in *Come, come ye Sons of Art*, nor the mechanical rhythmic life and monochrome dynamics of their *Ceremony of Carols*. There is many a German-speaking boys choir (not least the Tölzer) which does English music proud.

I eagerly awaited the VBC's return to home ground after the interval. Schubert's *Ständchen*, and an unaccompanied Austrian folk song, certainly showed off the bright timbre, warmed by vibrato, and made resinous by some true altos. But even the musical automata of their city's famous Clock Museum could scarcely compete with the mechanical prowess of their Johann Strauss waltzes and polkas. Two baskets of sweets, draped in ribbons of Austrian scarlet and white, were laid at their feet. Feeling ever so slightly queasy, I left them trisking into the night and on to Aldeburgh, Gainsby, Kendal, Glasgow...

**HILARY FINCH**

THEATRE: Diana Rigg succeeds as an unlikely Brechtian anti-hero. Plus, a cult idol on the fringe

Canny use of mother wit



The burden of war: as Brecht's profiteering Mother Courage. Diana Rigg "works fiercely to turn her natural advantages to disadvantages"

Some formidable actresses have been between the shafts of Mother Courage's cart in recent years. More or less the last thing Glenda Jackson did before going off to rattle and blast the Commons was to blast and rattle her way through Brecht's play. Before that, Judi Dench stomped round the Barbican stage, exuding chunky defiance and stocky pluck. And now here is Diana Rigg, in some ways the most surprising of them all.

You have only to glance at the production photos of Helene Weigel, Brecht's wife and the Berliner Ensemble's original Mother Courage, to see why. Her cheeks are sunken, her face sullen. Her Courage has a brutalised, not to say Breughelised look, which is very clearly the result of years spent trudging through 17th-century war zones in search of petty profits. But when I first saw Rigg, I had the impression she had chosen rather outré fancy dress for the glamorous-granny competition she was inexplicably entering. The white teeth, the fine if slightly smeared face, the effortlessly majestic bearing she brought two years ago to Euripides — Medea yes, but Brecht's relentlessly downbeat anti-heroine, surely not.

Yet as Jonathan Kent's production sped on, and she herself stalked from Sweden via Moravia to Saxony, Rigg's performance grew on me. All along she was working so fiercely to turn her natural advantages to disadvantages. Her voice became a brassy blend of growl and snarl, her body took on a brash, truculent swagger. If I still could not quite credit her as a weather-flayed crone, I could certainly believe in her as an opportunistic trader and canny survivor. She brings streetwise wit to the stony roads of old Europe.

David Hare's crisp, colloquial new translation, with its "she's winding me up" and its "you dickhead", finds more than the usual amount of humour in the play, and so does Rigg. She never gives away her emotions, as Dench did. Her face is an awful blank at the famous moment when she turns away from the murdered son she has been forced to pretend is a stranger. If anything, it is grimmer, deadlier when her daughter's

**Mother Courage Olivier**

corpse is carried away. What I shall mainly remember is the way she greets remarks such as "we're all in God's hands". "Oh, I wouldn't say things are as bad as that," she says, and the reply has a harsh, sardonic humour all Rigg's own.

For better or worse, Brecht would have been pleased. After the play's Swiss premiere in 1941, he did all he could to sentimentalise a protagonist audiences found too sympathetic, both by rewriting some of her lines and, later, by encouraging Weigel to bring out Mother Courage's less appealing qualities. As he saw it, she was a greedy petty-bourgeoisie who perpetuated war by bawling onto it, and lost her children because she thought she could profit from evil with impunity. As he said: "You need a very long spoon to sup with the Devil."

If that moral does not emerge as strongly as it might from Kent's production, the reason is less Rigg's acting than Paul Bond's curious de-

**Mother Courage Olivier**

signs. The cracked wall at the back opens, like a children's Advent calendar, to reveal tiny tableaux: a looming fortress, flames, tall tapering trees, fields of wheat with merry peasants. But where is the sense of destruction and desolation? The grey papier-mâché vulture that swoops about between scenes does not help much. Nor does Mother Courage's khaki cart, which loses its top as the evening proceeds but retains the anachronistic black tyres she presumably obtained on a side trip to the Gulf War. The music is sometimes more Broadway than ironically Broadway.

Still, there is a decent performance from Geoffrey Hutchings as the Cook fancied by

**Mother Courage Olivier**

Rigg: a stronger one from David Bradley as a Chaplain who evolves from dry preciosity to lank-haired humility as he absorbs the miseries of war; and a moving one from Lesley Sharp as Katrin, Courage's deaf-and-dumb daughter. Does she make us almost too aware of the character's love for children and, until her last self-sacrificial moments, the impossibility of fulfilling that love in the killing fields? No, because even Brecht, who tended to regard all emotion as self-indulgence, agreed that what he called "empathy" could not be avoided here. I duly empathised. A lot.

**BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE**

Poetic licence to rock

A rock star, dripping sweat in his satanic leathers, is hanging from a harness in a cage. Clutching his groin, he is ritualistically and cynically stirring up his girl groupies to scream out their names. If you were expecting a pretty little verse-play from the Damned Poets Theatre Company, this could come as a shock.

The company started out in 1993 with Shelley's *The Cenci*. Now it has a new play by poet Glyn Maxwell. *The Heart in Hiding*, about a cult idol turned alcoholic called Aidan, hiding out in the country but tracked down by two teenybopper fanatics and a tabloid snooper, hardly sounds like poetry. Hazarding a guess, I would say the play is in iambic pentameters. However

**The Heart in Hiding BAC, Battersea**

Andrea Brooks's cast, notably Moray Treadwell, who makes a dangerously wasted Aidan, and Eva Marie Bryer as the manically larty Sash, go for choppy colloquial delivery.

Treadwell injects sinister venom into obscure lines. As he leads his desperately fawning fans back to his lair, his wrecked, reeling manner justifies his wandering talk. Meanwhile, in the flashbacks to his concerts he copes staggeringly well, portraying a heavy-duty sex symbol and pop singer. Charlie Round-Turner's music, inspired by Jimi Hendrix, does the job and Brooks stages scenes in bottle-strewn squalor or in boldly stylised formats.

The piece has rough edges. Sash and her bespectacled sidekick Janey look for too long like cartoon characters. The storyline has loose ends, but also a surprising twist in its tail. Ian Barnes's hack journalism can be irritatingly exaggerated, but the cast's energy is intensely charged. The dancing round the ghetto-blasters is at once ridiculous and liberated. The escalation into a rape is disturbingly grim. When the plot is not drifting, the playing can be darkly gripping.

**KATE BASSETT**

Swan of his dreams

To all those who would invoke the sanctity of *Swan Lake*, a warning. Matthew Bourne has not only turned *Swan Lake* on its head, he has given it a sex change and catapulted it into another universe. His new production for Adventures in Motion Pictures is a radical take on the Russian classic that presents itself through striking imagery and some of the best performances you will ever see on a ballet stage. It will be a great hit.

So why must I offer a dissenting grumble? Because for all its inspired innovation and stunning execution (superb designs by Lex Brotherston) this *Swan Lake* suffers from an essential confusion. Bourne sends out so many ambiguous signals that motives become muddled as the conflict between fantasy and reality blurs the lines of narrative logic.

His *Swan Lake* is told through the eyes of the Prince. From the earliest scenes, when we see him as a boy, the oppression of royal duty is already closing in. As an adult things aren't much better. His inept effort at finding a girlfriend is a disaster, his gauche choice incurring the royal freeze from his mother. The Queen, in any case, is much too busy flirting with young officers to be bothered with her son's melancholic loneliness. The Prince's only escape

DANCE

**Swan Lake Sadler's Wells**

from the asphyxiation of his life is the Swan, the visual manifestation of his dream-self, a creature strong and free.

Act II sees the Prince meeting his Swan. This is Bourne's master stroke. The metaphorical bird is at once frightening and fascinating; not a hint of effeminacy or irony colours the choreography. So well has Bourne prepared the ground that not a snigger was heard when the all-male corps de ballet made its entry. These swans are mean, vigorous and virile, attacking with their jumps, threatening with their greedy domination of territory. The famous pas de deux for Siegfried and Odette is transformed into a mesmerising and heartbreaking realisation of the Prince's need for emotional nourishment from the Swan.

Then comes Act III — the royal ball — and the Swan is now the ultimate Don Juan (the other side of the Prince's alter ego). He's sexy and dangerous, and every woman in the room wants him. Especially the Queen. Their coupling is a bombshell, so hot it sends the disintegrating

DANCE

**Swan Lake Sadler's Wells**

Prince into a frenzy of jealousy and hate. He pulls out a gun, someone is killed, and the Prince is dragged off to a loony bin. But who or what is the Prince trying to destroy? Who does he really lust after — his mother or the Swan, with whom he has just enjoyed a sexually explicit duet? And is all of this just a figment of his fevered, incoherent imagination? Act IV, for all its glorious delivery of death and transcendence, fails to reconcile the inconsistencies.

Yet, despite his clouding of the analytical waters, Bourne here announces a new force and resonance to his increasingly expressive choreography. Flaws and all, this is an important work.

Bourne could not have been better served by his cast. Scott Ambler, an AMP stalwart, was the most engaging of heroes, warm and communicative, a poignant and pained Prince. Fiona Chadwick (ex-Royal Ballet), as his ghostly mother, was sublimely nuanced, not a second passing without another wonderful dramatic flourish from her.

Adam Cooper, borrowed from Covent Garden, gave the performance of his life as the Swan. Electrifying as the seducer, searing in his sensual intensity, powerfully beautiful as the awesome avian: this truly was a swan to die for.

**DEBRA CRAINE**

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Felipe Fernández-Armesto welcomes two contrasting histories which rescue women from sources dominated by men

# Woman is a history-making creature

Until Gabriello Falloppio sliced women open and found out what goes on inside, the womb was a baffling space which gave birth to monstrous myths about womanhood. With other 16th-century anatomists, he helped to start the Western world's biggest-ever revolution in perceptions of women. Before his time, it was possible to define woman as man *manqué* — Nature's bodged attempt to create an example of a better sex. Now her apparent deficiencies seemed moulded with the obvious perfection of divine design.

In roughly the same period, women's status was enhanced, if not transformed. In the late Middle Ages, there had been isolated and unencouraging examples of women in power as regents or sovereign queens. Now women practised "monstrous regiment" in unprecedented numbers. Some — like the flighty Mary, Queen of Scots and the manipulative Catherine de Medici — re-enacted in their lives cautionary tales of old Eve, but most earned praise for kingly "heart and stomach". Confessional struggles gave new importance to women's traditional domain — the guardianship of household routine. Mothers were the hearthside evangelists who watched over the transmission of doctrine and devotional lore from one generation to the next. Their choices ensured, in some cases and places, the survival of Roman Catholicism, in others the progress of Protestantism.

In Protestant and Catholic Europe alike, godly elites worked to formalise marriage customs, repress sexual misconduct and make marriage contracts verifiable and enforceable. Women who married by the rules could be better protected against male predators and more secure in the reversion of their property.

There could, however, be no corresponding increase in what feminists call women's "options": new economic opportunities on a sufficient scale were unavailable until the Industrial Revolution. Widowhood remained the best "option" for women who wanted freedom and influence. The most remarkable feature of women's predicament was that so many husbands survived it. In most of the continent in the early modern period, more detected domestic murders were committed by husbands than wives.

Two impressive new books examine women on either side of this 16th-century cleft. A hint in Olwen Hufton's *The Prospect Before Her* suggests that she has named a daughter after "an author famed for satires involving women who wore the



Women and the Enlightenment: in *A Game of Billiards* by Boilly (1807) a new informality in relations between the sexes is apparent; from *The Art of Louis-Léopold Boilly* by Susan L. Siegfried (Yale, £40)

## THE PROSPECT BEFORE HER

A History of Women in the West, 1500-1800

By Olwen Hufton

HarperCollins, £25

## MEDIEVAL WOMEN

A Social History of Women in England 450-1500

By Henrietta Leyser

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

trousers and flouted the rules". But neither she nor Henrietta Leyser is an intellectual cross-dresser. Both obey the rules of scholarship and sex warfare alike with fairness and decorum. Both elicit truth without parading indignation. Both are generous in their judgments and restrained in their inferences. Neither is suckered by the rival fallacies which represent women as ever advancing towards modernity or retreating from patriarchy. Both have arranged their material in similar categories, though to the cycle of marriage, motherhood, widowhood and religious life. Hufton adds discrete treatment of prostitution, witchcraft and social protest. The message of both books is *plus ça change*. If we ask one of Leyser's characters,

for instance, "How was 1066 for you?" she will reply with a dismissive shrug. Hufton sees her period as one of almost changeless equilibrium, punctuated by traumas such as the Reformation and the French Revolution.

And yet the two books come from different worlds. Hufton writes in the tradition of "gender studies", of which some of her previous work has constituted a splendid ornament. The women in her book are overwhelmingly victims: "constructed" by male writers, beaten by husbands, repressed by confessors, repressed by conventions and coaxed by the courts. She shows that wives in her period expected "respect, consideration and affection" but concentrates instead on the frustrations of their status and the burdens of their work. Leyser's lively intelligence takes nothing for granted and she has a robust preference for success stories: a queen of the Geats (ancestors of the Swedes) who wields "socially patterned" power; a 15th-century autobiographer who returns, "for Christ's sake", to nurse the dying, incontinent husband from whom she is legally separated.

Hufton belongs in the tradition of American and Continental scholarship, with its delight in conceptual problems and temptations to generalise. Leyser is at home in Oxford, with its love of the minute and the palpable, its relish for textual humanism. Hufton, who is unsurpassable in dredging and sifting huge quarries of sources, can write nothing as subtle, vivid or moving as Leyser's portrait of Christina of Markyate, the 12th-century nun "on the run" who inspired hermits and abbots with chaste love.

Hufton's volume almost justifies its 654 pages. But scientific and medical history is poorly used. Falloppio is not mentioned, even in the chapter on "Constructing Woman". The literature of "strong women" is skipped. Only two non-fictional women appear — briefly — in a forty-page chapter on "Marriage as a Goal". The author is more assured in handling documents than works of art: she claims, for example, citing a guidebook as authority, that Masaccio's *Expulsion from Eden* exonerates Adam. In a study of women, to suppose that cousin-marriage within seven degrees was prohibited in her era is a serious slip — after the time of Innocent III the limitation was only to within four degrees. Hufton's other errors are trivial and, in a work of this scope, humanly unavoidable. But Leyser's book — at half the length — seems error-free, though its scamp through the 14th and 15th centuries is breezy.

Still, in different ways, both books show how the history of women can be rescued from sources dominated by men. It is remarkable how well they go together: contiguous in coverage, compatible in conclusions and complementary in qualities — *The Prospect Before Her* is solidly and range, *Medieval Women* is freshness and deftness.

Dr Fernández-Armesto is the author of *Millennium (Bantam)* and *The Times Illustrated History of Europe*.

John Gray is unusual among the younger generation of British political scientists. He is not left-wing; he is convinced of the moral and spiritual evil of Marxism and its legacy; he accepts the devastating argument against the possibility of a socialist economy mounted by Ludwig von Mises and Friedrich von Hayek; he recognises that liberalism is not the answer to modern life, but merely a way of defying the question: he senses the vagidity of the idea of progress, and the emptiness of the promises of the Enlightenment; and yet he is not a conservative. For conservatism, says Gray, is really a "modernist" doctrine, a child of the Enlightenment, as ripe for the dustheap of history as the liberal and socialist ideologies against which it has taken its quixotic stand. A post-modern politics, in his view, must be post-conservative as well as post-socialist.

More surprisingly, Gray believes that it must be post-liberal too. Liberalism, for him, is the quintessential embodiment of the "Enlightenment project" — the project of founding a universal morality on premises derived from reason alone. In fact, he argues, liberalism has simply elevated one set of values — cosmopolitan, egalitarian, and purged of the sacred and the miraculous — over all other contenders for our loyalty, while offering no reason to endorse these values that can survive its own inherent scepticism. Liberalism is not the neutral thing that it pretends to be; nor is it especially tolerant. Although liberals make a great show of

their toleration, it is a toleration which extends only to other liberals: a fact which can be abundantly witnessed in American universities today, where the latest liberal causes are enshrined in codes of "political correctness" which can be violated only at the risk of one's career. For Gray a post-modern politics must stand above liberalism itself, and look serenely on all ideologies as equal contenders for a prize that is hardly worth the struggle to obtain it, since worth is itself a thing of the past.

Such, if I read him correctly, is Gray's argument. And it is expressed, with great verve and conviction — indeed, with a warmth that betrays the author's ardent need to believe something better. For the end of the Enlightenment project, as Gray describes it, is really the end of belief. Those who engaged in the project did so because they recognised no moral or spiritual authority outside human reason; and the supposed discovery that reason cannot fill the God-shaped hole that reason itself created, is the discovery that nothing matters.

The crisis through which we are living comes from having placed all our trust in a faculty that is destined, according to Gray, to betray

## What happened to us after the deluge

Roger Scruton

### ENLIGHTENMENT'S WAKE

By John Gray

Routledge, £19.99



Gray: post-everything?

us. He applauds Alasdair MacIntyre's *After Virtue*, in which this criticism of the Enlightenment project was most recently made (though the seeds of the argument are there in Burke, in Hegel and in Nietzsche, too).

Like MacIntyre, however, he both overestimates the power of human thinking, and also underestimates it. Marx may have been exaggerating when he argued that life determines consciousness and not consciousness life. Nevertheless, it is surely not

the failure of an intellectual project that has caused the moral vacuum in which we find ourselves: for it is a vacuum in the hearts of people who do not live through ideas, and whose values are the spontaneous products, when they exist, of an experience of community which no amount of philosophising could ever generate or destroy. The crisis of the post-modern consciousness can be safely confined to Oxford colleges — that is what Oxford colleges are for.

But Gray underestimates the power of human thinking too. True, the liberal tradition has not succeeded in establishing an objective morality. The failure of one attempt, though, does not entail the failure of all. I believe that Aristotle succeeded in the project that defeated Kant and that Aristotle's morality of virtue has shone through the entire Christian tradition. But Aristotle's arguments are difficult. If the Enlightenment project has failed, that is partly because it has been conducted by people whose mental equipment is easily biased towards foregone liberal conclusions, and easily exhausted in the attempt to reach them. Just because history has sided with the feeble-minded, we should not conclude that the task which they set themselves cannot be accomplished.

Indeed, Gray's "post-Enlightenment" posture, like every other form of post-modernism, displays the very weakness against which he has directed such a powerful battery of criticism. Like the Enlightenment thinkers whom he most despises, he believes that ideas have a history, and that an idea whose time has passed is no longer a serious contender for our belief in it. There is, for him, no "going back" to views that the world has discarded — and he castigates the present reviewer for the "quixotic aestheticism" displayed by his defence of old-fashioned values in a post-modern world.

I freely admit, however, to being pre-modern. I agree with Gray, that liberal socialism and other such modernist outlooks have exhausted their credibility. But I believe that they have done so because they have been refuted, and not because "history has moved on". To think that we must now go forward into some "post-modern" predicament is to renounce the most precious of God's gifts to us — the gift of reason, which tells us that if we have followed a path into chaos, then it is wise to retrace our steps.

Gray does not lack this gift; he distrusts it. Yet, in his heart, he is as pre-modern as I am: hence the passion of his prose, which seethes with a justified indignation against the crimes of our century, precisely because Gray, like the rest of us, knows that they really are crimes, and that this judgment upon them is objectively valid.

## Multitude in the valley of decision



Julia Neuberger: rabbi who believes in continuity more than theology

seems not to be religious herself.

"I did not become a rabbi through a passionately held belief in Jewish theology," she writes. "I did not intend to become a rabbi when I went up to Cambridge to read Assyriology. I ended up reading Hebrew as well as Assyriology, but only because Hebrew, as far as I was concerned, was a soft option." Later, as a rabbi, she saw her role as a teacher, someone who could "add to Jewish continuity".

### Nigella Lawson

#### ON BEING JEWISH

By Julia Neuberger

Heinemann, £16.99

"Where" she asks "is the religious belief in that? No Christian would wish to become an ordained priest with a vocation to study and teach but no faith; yet I am not unusual among Jews." For Judaism, she explains, is law-based, text-based, "a religion of books more than a religion of faith".

And yet, I do not quite understand why, if one does not believe in a divine guidance behind the laws constructed, one should be inclined to follow them.

Neither does Neuberger. She doesn't keep kosher, is "ambivalent" about the practice of circumcision, does not believe that the Torah was given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. She is not at such odds with all the tenets of Judaism: on the whole she is prepared to go along with what she feels is the spirit of the law rather than the letter.

IN THIS vein, it seems that although she disputes the divine inspiration behind the scriptures, she is prepared to believe that they were written by men who believed themselves to be directly inspired by God. I am at a loss to understand why that should make any difference, as it appears to do for her. Why should laws written by those merely under the delusion that God held any authority, especially over someone who declares herself to be of a "rationalistic inclination"? (Incidentally, she accuses the Chief Rabbi of holding what some might see as an irrational approach to religion. I cannot but ask: what, pray, is the rational one? Perhaps this is explained by a mystifying — given what's gone before — confession at the end of this book: "I do in fact believe in God. I have what some people have described as a rather peasant-like, uncritical belief.")

A belief in the importance of "Jewish continuity" — the family, the duties, the communal obligations — is, in a sense, Neuberger's true faith. Here she is devout, and impressive. But Jewish identity, non-religious Jewish identity, seems to me to be like the fairies: it exists only if you choose to believe it does. And Julia Neuberger's spirited account of why she has made that choice is as compelling as any thriller, not so much a whodunnit as a whydunnit.

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# From Hitler to Adenauer: a tale of two nations

When I was at Cambridge just after the war, one of my lecturers was Noel Annan. He was shortly to become, at 39, the youngest ever Provost of King's College. His subject was "Social and Political Thought in the 19th Century". After four years of intellectual stultification in the Army (working briefly in a similar branch of intelligence to Lieutenant-Colonel Annan), I found his course just too packed with ideas, and gave it up — to my eternal regret.

The same kind of brilliant compression and synthesis distinguishes his latest book. But, infinitely readable, it is not to be abandoned. In a mere 250 pages, he aims to combine a review of wartime intelligence against Germany with the early Allied postwar efforts to reconstruct the ruins, overlaid by his own experiences in both. The problem that confronted the publishers is suggested by the rather curious title they chose. *Changing Enemies*. The metamorphosis is, of course, between Germany and Russia. But there are also the enemies of good sense within: the hopelessly off-target Allied Intelligence officers, and the "low-level zealots" seeking to keep the postwar Germans in colonial subjection, with whom men like Annan had to wrestle.

Lord Annan reflects on whether the excessive secrecy essential to preserving Ultra, the method of decrypting German wartime codes, might not have militated against its operational effectiveness. Often critical intelligence reached formations too late. Yet, in Crete in 1941, where careless talk by the Luftwaffe gave Blechley precise details of the airborne landings — "The sole occasion on which intelligence gave our commanders a cast-iron guarantee of success" — the British commander, Freyberg, ignored it. By only the narrowest of margins, Crete was lost.

There is revisionism at its best in Annan's repeated praise for Churchill's intrinsic understanding of the value of wartime intelligence — "the greatest gift he brought was his personality". In September 1944, after the Allied liberation of Paris, Churchill was alone in not succumbing to the "happy hypothesis" that Germany would now collapse, as in 1918. But he was outnumbered by senior operatives like Major-General Kenneth Strong, Eisenhower's (British) intelligence chief at his Supreme Headquarters (SHAEB).

All too often, Strong was wrong. In spring 1941 he turned a blind eye to

**Alistair Horne**  
on a British  
officer's role  
in the destiny  
of Germany

Annan's suggestions that Hitler might be preparing to attack Russia. In September 1944, he failed to realise that Hitler was planning to deny the vital port of Antwerp to the Allies. Equally his SHAEB team, ensconced at Versailles, ignored the warning signs of the impending, disastrous German Ardennes, instead talking alarmingly about "pushing the Russians back to their prewar frontiers". In general, Annan feels, Allied Intelligence erred notably in its inability "get inside Hitler's mind and think like him" — as

**CHANGING ENEMIES**  
The Defeat and  
Regeneration of Germany  
By Noel Annan  
HarperCollins, £18

opposed to understanding the mentality of a rational Western commander.

As a former foreign correspondent in Germany just after the war, what drew me most to *Changing Enemies*, however, is its depiction of the dilemmas facing the Allies after VE-Day. The state of utter devastation in Germany is admirably described. There were the "low-level zealots" on the British Control Commission, intent on carving out a 20-year-long career for themselves. In harmony with the deluded wartime scheme of Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau Jr, to reduce Germany to a deindustrialised rural society ("a gift to Goebbels", says Annan), they set out to "stamp on the tradition on which the German nation had been built."

Then there were the less short-sighted idealists, like Lance Pope, Robert Birtley and the Jewish Labour MP for Edmonton, Austen Albu — and young Annan himself — who had believed in the regeneration of a democratic Germany. Fortunately, their idea triumphed, and 50 years of a

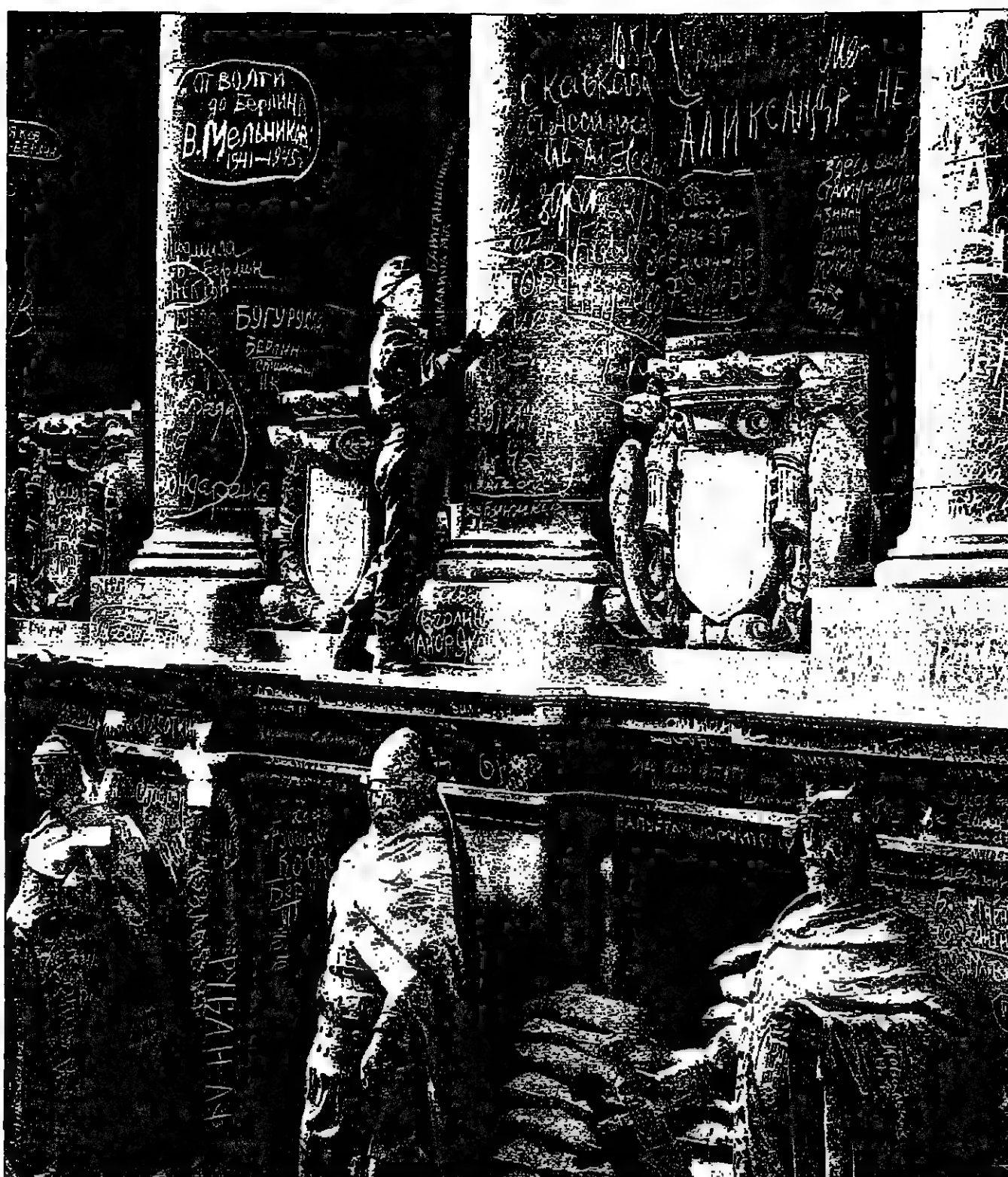
"good Germany" has vindicated them. In principle, the Allied concept of "denazification" (which, Annan notes interestingly, now confronts *mutatis mutandis* the Germans themselves in their handling of the East German Stasi) was respectable. Yet it led to impossible consequences; when there was a coalmine explosion in the British Zone, three British officers died — because the safety officials had been denazified, and sacked.

But the British Occupation left much to be proud of, as most Germans recognise today: there was the transformation of the German police and the creation of a responsible trade union movement (better than Antile's Britain could do for itself), the establishment of freedom of speech, and re-education brought about by Birley's *Die Brücke*.

Especially good are Annan's recollections of Konrad Adenauer and Kurt Schumacher, the two political giants in late 1940s West Germany. Of Adenauer, sacked as Mayor of Cologne for incompetence by a British brigadier (rightly, says Annan), he reflects: "How little did I realise in 1945 that the trifling dispute about the imposition upon the German Government of the British system of elected mayor and permanent town clerk was a finger post pointing to a discord between Britain and the European Union in the future." In Konrad Adenauer, he recognised "the virtues of that 'other' Germany, which so many Englishmen had admired for over a century. I wanted to listen to him."

Equally he recognised from those early days that Britain would never have a chance of "placating Adenauer" — all his life he had been devoted to an understanding with France. Twenty years later Harold Macmillan and the Foreign Office failed to grasp this. For the veteran, uncompromising Socialist, Kurt Schumacher, one-armed and physically wrecked by life in the concentration camps, who once protested angrily to the patronising British: "Wir sind kein Negervolk" ("we're not niggers"), Annan felt affection — but for Adenauer, admiration: "Unlike Gladstone he was an old man not in a hurry."

If *Changing Enemies* has a fault, it is that there is not enough of Annan's own voice — particularly as to what he was really thinking at the time in those complex days of the Occupation. But he leaves the reader in no doubt about his



July 1945: one of the first British soldiers to arrive in Berlin adds his name to the Russian graffiti on the ruined Reichstag

respect for the achievements built by the West Germans upon the rocky foundations of the Allied Control Commission.

Annan movingly describes how the Allied Forces' half-century in Berlin came to an end in 1994: "The limousine bearing Chancellor Kohl appeared and, like a noble tanker, edged towards its moorings... flanked by his tugs, the three ambassadors... The Occupation was over."

Alistair Horne is the author with David Montgomery of *The Lonely Leader: Monty, 1944-45* (Pan).

## When wizards fall out

Natasha Fairweather

**THE PRESTIGE**  
By Christopher Priest  
Simon & Schuster, £15.99

Magicians jealously guard their professional secrets, because the trickery which lies behind illusion is, once exposed, disappointingly banal. Be it mirrors, trap doors, convincing doubles or delectable sleight of hand, the curious spectator must necessarily feel cheated when the workings of magic are explained. For magic to be pleasurable, the audience must willingly suspend its disbelief and enjoy being bamboozled.

Christopher Priest — whose ninth novel, *The Prestige*, tells of the near-fatal rivalry between two turn-of-the-century magicians — has failed to absorb this lesson, though his own characters repeatedly articulate it. The plot draws its tension exclusively from their mutual quest to uncover one another's secrets. However, once the reader is in possession of the facts — the first explanation banal and the second the implausible stuff of horror fiction — disappointment is the dominant emotion.

Another weakness is that the narrative relies almost entirely on reported action. A brief, active modern-day section at the beginning sets up the premise of the novel. Andrew Westley is a young reporter who is adopted and knows little of his origins, but has always felt the unexplained psychic presence of a twin. He is invited on false pretences to the home of a hard-drinking young aristocrat named Katherine Angier. He is supposed to be following up a story about the founder of a mystic sect called The Rapturous Church of Christ who has achieved the not inconsiderable feat of bilocating from his prison in America to the Derbyshire bedside of a dying member of his flock — appearing to be in both places at once.

Once Westley arrives in Derbyshire neither he nor the reader hears any more about the agile Father Franklin. Instead, we are drawn into an old quarrel which has modern repercussions. For Angier's grandfather on his death left behind a detailed diary about his battle for supremacy on the stage with the great Alfred

Borden, as well as a copy of the clandestine memoirs of his rival. And it seems Borden was none other than Andrew Westley's blood grandfather. From this point on, the story is pieced together by way of the halting, and often deliberately opaque, reminiscences and diary entries of the two magicians. It is a tale of *doppelgängers* and of deceit and danger as both magicians race to harness the newly discovered medium of electricity in their magic-making.

The "prestige" of the title is defined for those unversed in the lexicon of magic as follows: "The third stage [of an illusion] is sometimes called the effect, or the prestige, and this is the product of magic." A prestige is the measure of a magician's worth. It can be as simple as a rabbit pulled out of a hat or, as is the case here, something a great deal more impressive and sinister.

Priest is an experienced novelist and an unpretentious stylist. He is also the father of twins. But he seems only passingly interested in the intriguing issues of identity and individuality raised by his cast of *doppelgängers*. With-out this depth, reading *The Prestige* is comparable to seeing a slick card trick performed. You admire the author's dexterity and his showmanship. But you come away feeling a little conned.

## Everything but the kitchen sink

At first sight, Terence Rattigan's blandly handsome features, caught in the flashlit photographs of Shaftesbury Avenue premieres, seem as non-committal as a matinee idol's: it is only on closer inspection that one discerns the vulnerability, the mute appeal for approval, that betrays his diplomatic eyes. Even in his palmy days he looked urbane apprehensively; now, long dead and longer discredited, he haunts the red plush stalls, a charming ghost with an imploring smile, appealing for the rehabilitation which continues, just, to elude him, despite various attempts to secure his place in the pantheon of significant and serious modern playwrights.

Rattigan's yearning for recognition was lifelong, as was the competitiveness that accompanied it: although a diplomat's son, he took time to learn the gentleman's wisdom that success should appear effortless. At 19 he was still miscalculating: he forfeited his place in the Harrow XI on the eve of the Eton-Harrow cricket match because revision for his Oxford scholarship, necessarily clandestine and candlelit, had strained his vision. The analogue of endeavour disguised was art made artless: in his maturity, when nobody witnessed the painful struggles of creation, he amazed critics and public alike with the naturalism and apparent simplicity of his dialogue.

Clive Fisher

**TERENCE RATTIGAN**  
A Biography  
By Geoffrey Wansell  
Fourth Estate, £20

Born in 1911 of Anglo-Irish ancestry, Terence Rattigan should have been an uncomplicated Edwardian, confident of his handsomeness, of his happiness at school and Oxford, even of the mighty panoply of British imperialism. But as though in a play by Pinter or Maugham, whose traditions of well-crafted drama he was to perpetuate, there were guilty secrets. His father, Frank, was an incorrigible womaniser who was eventually cashiered by the Foreign Office for his liaison with Princess Elizabeth of Romania. The disgrace entailed financial and psychological penalties; and although Terence thwarted paternal attempts to turn him to diplomacy, he could do nothing about his father's overt philandering or the humiliation he sensed in his mother.

He consoled her with famous devotion. Yet he always missed his father's love and later traced his homosexuality to that deprivation. Terence's sexuality, a guiltier secret even than Frank's, was the subterranean source of his plays: its illegal-



Rattigan: boulevardier who masked his homosexuality

ity sequestered him and gave an edge to the theme he made his own: the inability of the English bourgeoisie to understand, or even describe, the wanderings of the heart. Whatever they suspected, Rattigan's parents never knew his leanings. For his public, he projected a persona similar to Noel Coward's — the boulevardier in permanent chaperonage of beautiful actresses.

Privately, things were different. While still at Harrow he was involved with the racing correspondent of the *Daily Express*. When success came, he was free to choose between struggling actors — such as Kenneth Morgan, whose suicide precipitated *The Deep Blue Sea* — and millionaires like Chips Channon.

Whatever the imperatives behind Rattigan's public and

literary obliqueness, they counted for nothing after the advent of kitchen-sink drama. For the last 20 years of his life his articulate emotional diplomacy was despised by fashionable opinion and reviled by its spokesman, the implacably liberated Kenneth Tynan. Coward, also circuitous and also a scapegoat, lived to see himself restored; but then he embodied the smoky glitter of the Twenties.

Although the best of Rattigan now seems less dated, because less ideological, than much kitchen-sink complaining, his plays suffer by evoking the dismal Fifties. Perhaps when that decade achieves the glamour of history, Rattigan's revival for so long imminent, may endure.

It is cause is scarcely furthered, I am afraid, by this book, with its tabloid prose and its tediously insistent comments on the dangers of Rattigan's love-life. Wansell is conscientious in his analyses of Rattigan's plays and lucrative Hollywood scripts; but he never supplies his sources and depends far too much on polished anonymous remarks. All biographers know that frank interviews are hard to find. But they also know that the first requirement of any good cause, including the rehabilitation of their subjects, is a supply of admirers unashamed to lend their names to the effort.



Lukes: donnish allegorist

## Lilliputian in Gulliver's shoes

Sean French

**THE CURIOUS ENLIGHTENMENT OF PROFESSOR CARITAT**  
By Steven Lukes  
Verso, £14.95

crat. (Steven Lukes tells this story himself.) He is a symbol of optimistic, progressive rationality, cruelly destroyed by the forces of chaos.

Caritat, a professor of politics, is arrested by the author-

ties of the dictatorship of Militaria. Sprung by the underground, he is sent off on a mission (under the cover-name, needless to say, of Dr Pangloss) to equally allegorical neighbouring countries in order to decide which is the ideal political system to live under. He visits Utilitaria, in which individual rights are entirely subsumed into the creation of the happiness of the greatest number. This is flagrantly unjust, so Caritat flees to Polytopolis, capital of Communitaria, where the rights of individuals are so

entrenched as to form another kind of dictatorship of isolated interest groups. In an amusing dream, Caritat visits Proletaria, the Marxist Utopia in which the now classless people are free to work harmoniously, fish, hunt and create art, as Marx predicted in one of his less rigorous moments. Finally, he moves to Libertaria, in which everything has been privatised, community has vanished, and Caritat finds himself a denizen of cardboard city.

BY THIS stage of the story, I had become tired of Lukes's arid, ungrounded allegorical narrative. He clearly intends this work to follow in a tradition of allegories and satires: *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Candide* are referred to, and

language or its humour. Since one of the themes of the book is the collision between abstract ideas and brute reality, the lack of particularity with which that reality is portrayed really matters.

Lukes's conclusion — all too explicit — is that disaster is caused when fanatics pursue one desirable objective — freedom, say, or order — at the expense of the others. These pages, showing the need to reconcile conflicting principles, are the most eloquent of the book, animated by a sense of difficulty and of hope.

In its more successful moments, Lukes's narrative tends to suggest praise such as "interesting" or "thought-provoking", which is not necessarily a small achievement. But it misses a lot of what fiction can do for us.

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## Protests flying in the face of logic

THE WORLD descended on Earls Court this week for the World Travel Market in a frenzied attempt to lure the British holiday-maker. From Leeds to Libya, from Florida to Florence, everyone was determined to persuade tour operators and travel agents that their particular destination was the place to send clients. And it is surprising how much of the world has turned into "paradise", just how many "lands of contrasts" there are all filled with "welcoming, friendly people" ready to give visitors the "holidays of a lifetime".

The message has certainly sunk in that travel and tourism is big business and that an increase in visitor numbers of just a few percentage points can have a welcome impact on a resort's, or a country's, income.

Even Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, explained this week how the British economy benefits by £36 billion a year from tourism.

The vast majority of the 21 million visitors to Britain a year come by air and 124 million flights from Britain were made in total last year. Over the next five years the number of airline passengers jetting around the world is expected to increase at 5 per cent a year to reach 1.5 billion by 1999.

The number of international airline passengers will have risen to 468.5 million before the end of

the decade, says the International Air Transport Association, with the biggest growth in China and Chile.

Already delays and congestion are getting worse, but despite all the frustrations, the world has an insatiable appetite for more air travel. And the World Travel Market showed that the industry is determined to feed it.

But just a few miles away there was an equally fierce fight going on to make sure that such ambitions are thwarted. At the inquiry into plans to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow this week the British Airways chief executive, Sir Colin Marshall, laid out his arguments for the new terminal, which will enable Heathrow to handle an additional

30 million travellers a year. He was instantly accused of "deceiving" the public with "worthless assurances" by protest groups and the local borough of Hillingdon described his evidence as "a disgrace".

If only there was an easy way, both to allow more people to travel and yet to provide those who live under the flight paths with peace.

Maybe potential travellers from China or from Chile could be banned from travelling. We in Britain, and especially those who live near airports, must be allowed to do so at will, of course.

Daft? Yes. But no sillier than attacks which take the debate no further forward.



**The Travel Business**  
by HARVEY ELLIOTT

## WORLD TRAVEL MARKET 1995: Reports from London on a studio battle, Dinosaur theme park war

By DAVID CHURCHILL

DINOSAURS may have become extinct many millions of years ago, but this week they managed to rekindle a long dispute between Universal Studios Florida — 50 per cent owned by the Rank Organisation in Britain — and the Walt Disney Company.

Universal Studios yesterday unveiled details of its \$2 billion (about £1.2 billion) theme park at Orlando in Florida. When it opens in 1999, the park will double the size of its existing film studios attraction.

To be known as the "Islands of Adventure", Universal's theme park will include a special area based on *Jurassic Park*, the Oscar-winning film by Steven Spielberg, with realistic life-sized dinosaurs utilising sophisticated audio-animatronic technology.

However, Universal officials are incensed that its biggest rival, Walt Disney World, now plans to open its own dinosaur attraction a full year before Universal's *Jurassic Park* is operating.

Disney's new Wild Animal Kingdom theme park, due to open in 1998, will include, according to Disney, "our most advanced audio-animatronics to bring the giants of the Cretaceous era to life as a major thrill attraction". Visitors will be able to traverse a primeval forest to mingle with dinosaurs just as happens in the film version of *Jurassic Park*.



The movie *Jurassic Park* has spawned two rival attractions

"The timing is slightly unfortunate," Fred Lounsbury, marketing vice-president of Universal Studios Florida, says. "But we will still be the only theme park to have the official *Jurassic Park* dinosaur attraction."

Universal's irritation at having

Disney pip it in the dinosaur stakes follows a similar success for Disney in 1989 when it opened its film studios theme park in Orlando a year ahead of Universal.

Joe Flower, author of an unofficial biography of Michael Eisner, the Disney chairman, says that the

Disney move "was greeted with fury by Universal". The latter had been planning a film studios theme park in Orlando since the early 1980s, while Disney had only announced its studios in 1985.

Universal executives even claimed that Eisner had stolen the idea after it had shown him confidential plans of the studios before he joined Disney in 1984, a charge which Disney rejects.

Universal says that history has repeated itself since it first announced its plans for *Jurassic Park* in 1993, two years before Disney. While Disney officially denies any attempt to pre-empt the new Universal attraction, it is clear that the sluggish demand from American holidaymakers visiting Disney World has made it extremely sensitive to plans by its rivals.

The new Universal theme park will be a major challenge to Disney, with hotels and an evening entertainment complex rivaling Disney's "Fleasure Island".

Meanwhile, the increasing sophistication of leisure attractions worldwide has forced Madame Tussaud's Waxworks in central London to spend at least £1 million on revamping its infamous Chamber of Horrors to make it more scary.

The development is due to be completed next spring and will include new interactive scenes depicting Vlad the Impaler, otherwise known as Dracula, and a guillotine execution.

## Tourism 'can save culture'

LONDONERS were this week urged to welcome the capital's growing number of tourists as the real guardians of their cultural way of life, *Harvey Elliott* writes.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, told delegates to the CBI conference in Birmingham that Londoners were "privileged to enjoy the theatre capital of the world".

"But who helps to keep those theatres going?" she asked. "The tourists who buy two-thirds of West End tickets."

She told the CBI's first tourism debate that the tourism industry contributed £36 billion a year to Britain and earned more from exports than North Sea oil, financial services or civil aviation. And everyone benefited, she said.

Tourism could have created 150,000 more jobs over the past 15 years and earned £9 billion in extra revenue but for the "complacency" of the industry and the Government, said Sir John Egan, chief executive of airports operator BAA.

Standards needed to be improved, hotels should be refurbished and more affordable accommodation for visitors should be built, he told the CBI.

Sir John attacked planners for the "cumbrousness" way they dealt with applications for new hotels and called on groups such as English Heritage to do more to encourage the tourist industry.

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a plan to find more Francophiles, a move upmarket for a Greek island and a backlash in the beach bars of Goa

## France spends more to win back British

By STEVE KEENAN

FRANCE is increasing its promotions budget in Britain by 40 per cent in an attempt to reverse a slump in summer holiday bookings.

More than nine million Britons visited France this year, making it the most popular destination for overseas trips. But daytrippers, short breaks, Euro Disney and Paris accounted for the growth.

The French Tourist Office is more concerned about the 10 per cent fall in the main summer holiday market, fearing Francophiles will go elsewhere because of the exchange rate. The ski market to France is also down, by 20 per cent.

The French Government has given the French Tourist Office a 15 per cent budget rise. In turn, the FTO has given Britain the biggest increase of all its overseas offices.

The £3.5m budget will be partly used on television advertising, posters and joint campaigns with tour operators selling France.

"We thought we would lose market share this summer with people sitting at home and watching the exchange rate," said the FTO president, Jean-Marc Janailiac, at the World Travel Market this week. "We have to attract

them back to France and go after new markets."

The main reason for the summer decline is the strength of the franc, stubbornly below eight to the pound.

Brittany Ferries and French Life both reported people taking shorter French holidays as a result this summer, down from 12 nights to 10.5 on average, says French Life.

It is early days but France has also suffered, like other destinations, in failing to win early bookings. Cresta brings out its main French brochure next month but Keith Byrne, national sales manager, says: "I don't think we will miss much, maybe 100 passengers. There isn't a rush."

Keycamp has cut prices for July and August peak season holidays by 5 per cent for bookings made before January 16. John Baines, marketing director, says: "Demand has been weaker than usual — but May, June and September holidays are selling extremely well."

It is the value-for-money message that the French Tourist Office is pushing for the summer market, the argument being that it is cheap to get there, and good value for self-catering families staying in gites or mobile homes. "It is the little extras like ice-

creams, beers and soft drinks that people are wary of," says Dennis Fabri, marketing director of the French Tourist Office in the UK.

The efforts to attract people to France will again be boosted by the prospect of another ferry price war in 1996.

Hoverspeed this week joined Le Shuttle in offering discounts on advance Dover-Calais bookings. The company is knocking 60 per cent off peak-season prices for bookings made by February 28 — reducing a standard return from £327 to £129. Le Shuttle is quoting 20 per cent off fares booked by the new year, but has said it will review prices in its second edition brochure.

All ferry companies have now released prices for 1996 except Brittany Ferries and Stena Line, which are expected shortly. Apart from the advance booking offers, all have kept prices roughly in line. P&O has increased fares by 6 per cent. Le Shuttle by 1 per cent and Sally Line by 7 per cent in 1996.

It means top prices on Dover-Calais peak season crossings of P&O (£399), Le Shuttle (£328), Hoverspeed (£327), Sea Star (£320) and Sally on Ramsgate — Dunkirk, £319.

## Singapore bids to be jewel of the Far East

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

SINGAPORE is bidding to become the tourism "hub" of the world's fastest growing region — the Far East. The booming island state plans to exploit its reputation for cleanliness and strict laws to combat crime to attract millions of additional visitors from Britain and mainland Europe.

Law enforcement is strict with smoking banned in all public places, and hefty fines for anyone who dares to light up or drop a cigarette end in the street. Duty-free imports are banned, chewing gum is illegal, littering is regarded as a serious crime and the death penalty is mandatory for drug pushing.

"The fact that we are clean and safe is a real attraction to many visitors who feel that they can walk around our streets in complete safety even at 3 o'clock in the morning," said Tan Chin Nam, chief executive of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board.

During this week's World Travel Market he and 80 other staff were on hand to press the claim of Singapore to become the main entry point to the Far East. "We are small enough to satisfy visitors for a few days as a stopover, and yet we sit at the hub of an entire network of

countries and cultures," said Mr Tan.

He has launched Tourism Unlimited, which is designed to expand Singapore's tourist expertise to the region as a whole.

Already there are indications that the country could achieve its aim. In the past five years, for example, the number of cruise liner passengers travelling from Singapore has gone from 50,000 to more than 700,000. A £20 million cruise ship has been built to attract ships looking for destinations beyond the traditional routes around the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

Now shipping companies are being offered special deals to base ships at Singapore, and tour operators are offering holidaymakers three nights in Singapore followed by cruises taking in Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Bali, Brunei and Indonesia. Liners now include stops at Malacca, Penang, Krakatoa, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok as well as Singapore.

Since 1986 Singapore has spent a total of almost £500 million on improving its infrastructure and now attracts almost seven million visitors a year — 302,000 of them from

Britain. At least 7,000 new hotel rooms will have been opened by the end of the century and Singaporean businessmen and entrepreneurs are being encouraged to invest in neighbouring regions, and to link tourism developments.

The country, which consists of one main island and at least 50 smaller ones, has a population of almost three million, 78 per cent of whom are of Chinese origin.

It has developed rapidly since it became within non-stop range of Europe with the new generation of Boeing 747-400 long-range jets.

Singapore Airlines this week announced that it was buying another 77 Boeing jets, costing around £8 billion, to use on the rapidly expanding Asian routes. It has placed firm orders for 34 Boeing 777-200 models as well as 43 options. Six of the firm orders and ten options will go to the airline's leasing subsidiary for use by other companies.

Singapore Airlines will take delivery of the new planes between 1997 and 2004. One of the world's most profitable carriers, it expects to finance the purchase mostly from its general cashflow.



Facelift: Corfu Town is to get a modern sewage treatment plant along with two new museums and an art gallery

## Corfu cleans up its image

By TONY DAWE

DRAMATIC plans to clean up Corfu and to make the island, which is one of the most popular choices for British holidaymakers, a more upmarket destination were announced in London yesterday.

They include a new biological sewage works, a programme to tidy the beaches, the promotion of "environmental sensitivity" among locals and visitors and a £9 million scheme to renovate buildings and services in the centre of Corfu Town.

"We realise that in the past there have been problems with our infrastructure, our environment and the services we offer," Andreas Pangratis, the elected Normarch of Corfu, said as the plans were launched at World Travel Market. "With the preservation of Corfu's rich culture, history and architecture top of the agenda, however, we will soon be in a position to attract the more discerning traveller."

He added that, all over the island, facilities and services are being upgraded in an effort to attract more families. The least romantic of these is the construction of the new sewage works, which will be in operation by next spring, to deal with waste from Corfu Town.

Chrysanthos Sarlis, the Mayor of Corfu Town, added that a history museum, a modern municipal art gallery and a new archaeological museum are being created.

Underground power and television cables will be laid, together with new drainage, to improve housing conditions and access for visitors. The changes will not, however, affect the cricket pitch in the main square.

Although British tourists continue to account for more than half the visitors to Corfu, the island's new tourism promotion board is keen to point out that "bars selling English food do not outnumber Greek establishments and you are just as likely to see tourists arriving in panama hats and blazers as in Union Jack shorts."

## Goans fight beach shack ban

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ATTEMPTS by the Goa government to control the number of popular beach shacks which have sprung up along the 105 kilometres of seashore in the Indian state have infuriated local traders.

Hundreds of the shack owners, who sell drinks and snacks to the growing number of tourists, have now formed the All Goa Shack Owners Association which is urging tourists to boycott the destination until the government changes its mind.

They claim that the clampdown limiting the number of shacks which can be erected has been forced through by big hotels which can charge at least three times as much for

a beer and which, they claim, cannot serve the hot fresh food as cheaply or as temptingly as the shack owners.

Tricia Barnett, co-ordinator of Tourism Concern, said yesterday: "Local people are losing their livelihoods and tourists will no longer be able to enjoy the experience of eating in a small Goa beach-side shack. We are sure many British holidaymakers would not like to think that tourism is being developed by removing the very places that tourists love to see, and destroying the livelihoods of local people."

But Goa's director of tourism, Uthas Kamat, said at the World Travel

Market in London yesterday that the clampdown had been introduced to "prevent the death of the goose which lays the golden eggs".

"We have miles of golden, unspoiled beaches and last year there was a sudden explosion of these shacks. On one seven-mile stretch alone there were more than 150 such shacks and it was becoming impossible for tourists to enjoy the very thing they had come so far to see."

"There is nothing to stop the locals from cooking in their homes near the beach then bringing the food to the shack if they wish. But we don't want

the beaches spoilt by the rubbish they might bring in. We have already issued over 100 licences but we want to ensure that there is plenty of room between each shack and that they do not interfere with the visitors' enjoyment in any way."

More than 150,000 British tourists visited Goa last year and this is expected to rise by at least 20 per cent in the next 12 months. Now the state wants to open its own information centre in London and is encouraging locals to open their homes to paying guests to meet the soaring demand.

Twelve tour operators now offer holidays in Goa at prices starting at less than £300 for seven nights.

## Holidays on the wild side

By WILLY NEWLANDS

WILDLIFE is flavour of the year at the 1995 World Travel Market. Everywhere from China to Chile, state tourism departments have decided to promote their wild attractions — an aspect of travel which particularly appeals to countries short of beach resorts and shopping malls.

As one tour operator said: "It is silly to pretend that our bazaars can compete with Bond Street, but our tigers are thrilling. All we had to do was build a lodge and hire some elephants and we were in business."

P. K. Singh, assistant director of Uttar Pradesh tourism, told me that his region of India is now offering breathtaking, adventurous trekking routes into tiger country. Several take Himalayan trails followed by Jim Corbett 70 years ago in pursuit of killer tigers, immortalised in his bestseller, *The Man-eaters of Kumaon*.

Villages which were unvisited by outsiders until 30 years ago, many of them terrorised by tigers which in some cases killed more than 300 people, now see the big cats and other wildlife as an important draw for wealthy tourists.

One starting point for treks is Rudrapur, whose man-eating leopard killed 125 people in eight years. Now the



Tigers have exotic appeal that rivals beaches or bazaars

leopards are a highlight of the tourist trail.

Sumatra, promoting itself as "The New Frontier", puts a tiger on the cover of its latest brochure, emphasising the variety of wildlife in the vast, dense rainforest only a short hop from modern Singapore.

And China, until recently unwilling to let travellers stray off the beaten track, is a convert to wildlife tourism. Jason Wu, manager of the China International Forest Travel Service, said: "It is very important for us to show people what we are doing, for example, to save the giant panda. We have tours to the

Wolong Reserve, near Chengdu, in western China, to visit the Hetaoping giant panda reproduction base."

Such wildlife tours are now being included with Peking's Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall as part of mainstream itineraries in China.

While Sonam Tobgay, senior tourism officer of the Bhutan Tourism Corporation, suggested a trip to see the last black-necked cranes on their wintering grounds at Bomdeling, and Daniela Orellana, of Explora, described guanacos and condors in southern Chile's superb mountains, a new offer

came from Samia Saleh Kebire, general manager of the Caravan agency in Addis Ababa — rafting on the River Ormo or the Blue Nile.

A side trip to the Simyen Mountains, she explained, would allow me to view such rarities as gelada baboons, wallia ibex and Simien fox.

All these tours are now marketed by tourist offices eager to cash in on the fastest growing area of travel. From whales to hummingbirds, every kind of wildlife is now being marketed with a hard-sell previously reserved for beach resorts.

Barbel Kirchner, of Namibia Tourism, suggested sea-lion watching on the Skeleton Coast, while Victoria Nash, of Landela Safaris, described a second Polish bird festival, a budget holiday for "those who are not quite intrepid enough to go it alone."

As Maciej Zimowski, manager of Bird Service Tours in Bialystok, says: "We take great pains to encourage more tourists to visit our unusual country."

Roger Frayne, a London travel consultant, said: "Some aspects of wildlife tourism are growing very fast, although from a small base. Low investment can give high returns — that appeals to many countries which want to join the travel boom of the Nineties."

## Indonesia diverts tourists from Bali

By TONY DAWE

INDONESIA has launched a new strategy to encourage visitors to look beyond the attractions of Bali to some of the country's larger islands.

Bali, the volcanic island of legendary beauty, attracts nearly a million visitors a year, mostly for beach holidays, and has played a major part in the nation's astonishing tourism boom. The number of visitors has risen more than threefold in ten years.

With the boom forecast to continue, and the number of British visitors expected to increase from 135,000 in 1993 to 400,000 by the year 2000, tourism chiefs want to promote the diverse charms of Indonesia's other destinations.

The "island strategy" will highlight specific activities — such as the wildlife, golf and diving — and has been developed with the help of Rob Langtry, an Australian advertising executive who has spent the past two years in Indonesia.

Launching the new strategy at the World Travel Market, Mr Langtry said: "We shall not be ignoring the well-known destinations like Bali but by heightening awareness of other areas, we hope to broaden the appeal of Indone-

sia and attract a wider range of tourists."

He highlighted Kalimantan, which spans two-thirds of the island, everyone knows as Borneo, and is the only place in the world to find freshwater dolphins in the Mahakam River, as well as an exceptional variety of monkeys.

With 50,000 miles of coastline around its 17,000 islands and 15 per cent of the world's coral reefs, Indonesia will also promote diving holidays. Sheer underwater cliffs of coral off the coast of Sulawesi will attract experienced divers but beginners can head for gentle, shallow land-based diving on the Gili Islands, off Lombok.

For the really adventurous, the wilderness islands of Irian Jaya, and to a lesser extent, Sumatra, offer the chance to explore untouched rainforest, jungle and hot springs.

Pictures in last Thursday's *Israel* supplement came from *Israel: Splendours of the Holy Land* by Sarah Kochav, just published by Thames and Hudson (£29.95).

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# World Cup winners usher in era of professionalism at Twickenham

## England plotting southern discomfort

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE struck a blow last week for northern hemisphere rugby by beating New Zealand at Twickenham on Saturday. England have the opportunity to do the same when they face South Africa, the world champions, but in the knowledge that, unlike previous seasons, they have no fall-back position.

Jack Rowell, the team manager, admitted as much when England trained at the Bank of England ground at Roehampton yesterday. The spine of the team — Brian Moore, Dean Richards, Rob Andrew — has gone and, in Rowell's view, the personnel are not available to play in the traditional, sometimes laboured, English style. Casting a few barbs at the try-scoring limitations of the previous managerial regime, Rowell emphasised England's success last season. He seeks now to take the best from a disappointing World Cup campaign — the pool match with Western Samoa and the second half of the semi-final against New Zealand — and put it into practice against the most unforgiving of opponents.

"It's a big step to take from every-week club rugby to international rugby, particularly when the team hasn't played for five months," he said, "but remember, the French didn't play at their best in the World Cup yet last week in Toulouse they pulled off a famous victory."

"If we are positive, in defence and attack, if we can release the reborn Jeremy Guscott and Will Carling — who is playing superb rugby — into the midfield with the ball and with space, we will see a lot of movement. Change never happens as fast as you want it to."

Yet, away from the field, changes come in fast; too fast for some. This will be England's first professional international, though the players have yet to sign contracts with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and are therefore scarcely out of their amateur nappies. In that respect, they are well behind their opponents, the South African Rugby Football Union having agreed contracts worth up to £40,000 with their players. England's players had



Carling, left, the England captain, and Regan, the Bristol hooker preparing to win his first cap, train at Roehampton yesterday

hoped to settle contractual issues by this weekend, but instead have sought independent legal advice on the three main areas from which they hope to make money: retainers, match fees and commercial appearances, of which the latter is a minefield. The 21 players involved on Saturday have been offered contracts, for one year only, although the intention is to broaden that to a squad of some 50 players, including England A representatives.

Contracts will allow players to earn money elsewhere — for example, by writing newspaper columns, although there has been a strong view that such activity should be limited. Instead, the RFU will

now rely on a catch-all regulation applicable to players bringing the game into disrepute.

The RFU is aware that players are testing the water this season. Several are believed to have signed letters of intent for Ross Turnbull, the Australian associated with the Rugby World Championship project that collapsed in the summer. Additionally, the stance adopted by first division clubs suggests that they would encourage their players to avoid signing long-term agreements with the union, though at this stage only the RFU is in a position to make concrete offers.

It is a far from easy scene for a young player such as Mark

Regan to enter. The Bristol hooker, winning his first cap, takes the place of Moore, for so long the players' main advocate. Should Regan follow union or his senior colleagues, established members of the squad with their own commercial interests who can afford, literally, to delay contractual agreements?

For the moment, such thoughts may be the furthest from Regan's mind. His international debut comes against a team categorised by Rowell as firm favourites, unbeaten and riding the crest of a wave. "I don't regard South Africa as lucky world champions and, if they win, this will be the icing on the cake," Rowell said.

## Cardiff's plans suffer with loss of Davies

ANY plans that Cardiff may have had for using Jonathan Davies, their new acquisition from rugby league, in Europe this month have been put on hold (David Hands writes). Davies, 33, suffered a strained hernia against Cambridge University on Friday and he requires a minor operation.

He is likely to be out of rugby union action for the best part of a month, which covers the period when Cardiff play Bègles-Bordeaux (November 21) and Ulster (November 28) in the Heineken Cup. Davies has sustained the injury before but will welcome the chance to settle into a new home without the constant attention his return to Wales has received so far.

"The welcome has been overwhelming, but I'm sick of seeing my name in the press," he said yesterday. "This could

be a blessing in disguise. It will take me out of the limelight. Maybe when I'm fit again I'll be able to find my way back in less of a glare."

It will be a blow to those who would have him back in the national team in the flickering of an eye. He has already accepted a post as a development officer for the Welsh Rugby Union, which is anxious to cash in on his fame, while Cardiff hope to recoup their outlay on bringing him back from Warrington in their home league matches.

Wales's first international commitment of the new year is against Italy in Cardiff on January 16, but they hope to have resolved the coaching post within a fortnight. Kevin Bowring, appointed caretaker coach for the game last week with Fiji, remains the front-runner for the position.

## India's fielders help Crowe to century

MARTIN CROWE hit an unbeaten 107, his highest score in one-day cricket internationals, to lead New Zealand to an eight-wicket victory over India in Jamshedpur yesterday. New Zealand reached their target of 237 with three of their 50 overs to spare. Crowe making the Indians pay dearly for three dropped catches as he shared an unbroken 171-run partnership with Stephen Fleming, who scored 78.

Manoj Prabhakar, who was India's top scorer with 83 after they had been asked to bat, struck an early blow with the ball when he had Nathan Astle leg-before for seven, but Mark Greatbatch scored 31 runs from 42 balls before he was second out at 66, leaving the way clear for the third-wicket pair to decide the game. Crowe was missed when 29, 39 and 50, on the last occasion by Utpal Chatterjee, the off spinner, who fumbled a caught-and-bowled opportunity. Fleming, who faced 107 balls, did not offer a chance.

## Pickering goes alone

SWIMMING: Of Great Britain's three world champions, Karen Pickering will be the only one to defend a short-course title at Rio de Janeiro in a fortnight's time (Craig Lord writes). Nick Gillingham has opted instead for a world record attempt and the promise of money, while Mark Foster is emerged in changing his sprint freestyle technique, a process incompatible with rapid racing.

Pickering was the revelation of the inaugural world short-course championships in Palma de Mallorca two years ago, storming to a surprise victory in the 200 metres freestyle in a time that remains the second fastest in history, 1min 56.25sec. Rio, with its promise of a carnival atmosphere, will suit Pickering, who craves the cheering crowd.

## Davies goes for treble

GOLF: Laura Davies, of Great Britain, will be aiming for her third Alpine Australian Masters win in succession when the event begins at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast today. Davies finished a record 20-under-par in winning Australia's biggest women's tournament last year over the par-73, 6,152-yard resort course. Her rivals will include two Swedes, several top Americans and a group of young Australians that includes Karrie Webb, the British open champion. Webb heads the home challenge, along with Jane Crafter, who scored the host nation's only win in the event, in 1992.

## Thomson leads revival

BOWLS: England, trailing Wales, the leaders, by nine points overnight, closed the gap to four points in the inaugural European indoor team championship in Jersey yesterday. Andy Thomson, the world indoor champion, recovered to beat Stephen Rees 1-7, 7-3, 7-5, 7-1 in the opening men's singles, while the England rink skipped by Tony Allcock defeated Robert Weal's side 18-14 in the fours. Scotland moved into third place, five points behind England, after Graihame Robertson scored a straight-sets win over Jon Queripel, of Guernsey, while Scotland also won 27-16 in the fours.

## Brewster on course

YACHTING: Samantha Brewster, the solo yachtswoman attempting to break Mike Golding's non-stop east to west round-the-world record, has opened up a 375-mile advantage during the first 16 days. Brewster, 28, is 420 miles southwest of the Cape Verde Islands. Her 67-foot yacht, Heath Insured, has registered a succession of 200-mile runs after setting a best 24-hour run of 236 miles between November 11 and 12. "Everything is going very well," she reported yesterday.

## Eton through to final

RACKETS: Eton I, the favourites, featuring Willie Boone and Mark Hue Williams, reached the final of the Noel Bruce public schools old boys doubles championship at the Queen's Club with a dynamic victory over John Spurling and Johnny Longley, the No 5 seeds, of Tonbridge. The Etonians took the title last year. The other finalists are the Radley partnership of James Male, the world champion, and Julian Snow, the world amateur real tennis champion.

# South Africa vs England



five test series

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NO TURNING BACK



## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

It is all very well knowing percentage plays in individual suits but they have to be put in the context of the whole hand. The refresher today, played in a 11 partnership, is a good example.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5 4	♠ 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5 4	♠ 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ 8 7 6 5 4

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: Queen of Hearts

Declarer won the heart lead in dummy and played a spade to the ace. On receiving the bad news, she then played on diamonds, but went one off when East ruffed — the defence took three trump tricks and the ace of clubs.

There was then a lively debate between declarer and dummy as to what was the correct way to play the trump suit. Dummy said that it was right to lead the queen, declarer said that ace and another was better. The latter is somewhat better if you can afford to lose only one trick, but it is not the point of this hand — once

East follows on the spade, all declarer has to do is to cover his card. If West wins the trick, the trumps cannot break worse than 3-1 and so declarer is bound to make three tricks in spades in hand, five diamonds in dummy, the ace of hearts and a club ruff.

As the cards lie, West shows out on the first spade; declarer switches to diamonds, and all the defence makes is two trump tricks and a club trick.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**BARDPARTS**  
CLEON  
a. A sycophantic parasite  
b. A feeble governor  
c. A stern philosopher

**SEMPRONIUS**  
a. A false friend  
b. An Etruscan general  
c. A twin brother

**BAPTISTA**  
a. A shrewish wife  
b. A silly father  
c. A foolish virgin

**GOBBO**  
a. A murderer  
b. A pedantic schoolmaster  
c. A clownish servant

Answers on page 44



## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Ivanchuk eliminated**

Before the start of the Paris leg of the Intel speed chess grand prix, Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukrainian grandmaster, was the clear leader in the overall standings, and the favourite to win the bonus \$50,000 (£32,000) prize for the highest points scorer over the four legs. In Moscow, New York, London and Paris, Ivanchuk began the tournament in Paris with the additional impetus of the share of first prize ahead of Kasparov at the Horgen tournament in Switzerland.

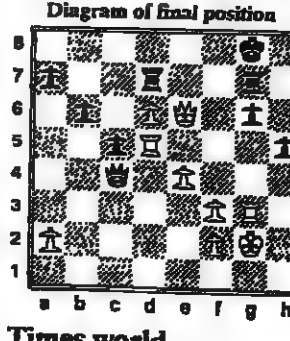
However, his dream evaporated in the quarter-final when he was outplayed by his co-winner from Horgen, Vladimir Kramnik, 20, the Russian grandmaster.

Kramnik adopted a sharp sacrificial line against Ivanchuk's Grünfeld Defence and powered through the centre with a devastating passed pawn to score a win in just 29 moves.

**White:** Vladimir Kramnik  
**Black:** Vassily Ivanchuk  
Intel Grand Prix  
Paris, November 1995

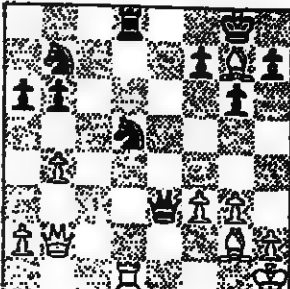
**Grünfeld Defence**  
1. Nf3 Nf6  
2. c4 d5  
3. Nc3 dxc4  
4. e4 c5  
5. e5 Nc6  
6. bxc3 Bg7

7. Qa4	8. Rd1	9. Be2	10. Bc2	11. Bc2	12. Qc2	13. Nf4	14. Nf4	15. g4	16. Ng6	17. c5	18. Qd5+	19. Qe5+	20. Qf2	21. Rd1	22. Bc4	23. Kf1	24. Kg2	25. Qd5+	26. Rd5	27. Rf3	28. Rg3	29. Qd6+
c5	Q-O	Nc6	Bxc3+	Bxc2+	Nc2	Bg4	Bc3	a5	Ng6	b6	Kg7	Qf6	h5	Nc4	Qc3+	Qxc4+	Ra8	Kg8	Rf7	Rd7	Rg7	Black resigns



**Times world championship book**  
All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a Times book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (quote S/653).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Vito — Spiridonov, Varna, 1977. White's back row is slightly vulnerable. If Black managed in... Qe1 (prevented at present by the white rook on d1), it would force mate. How did Black cleverly use this possibility to force a quick win?

Solution on page 44

Mather resorts to strike action in dispute

Oxford go stage in d

University 31  
Sentry's XV 41

PETER BULLIN

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...

...the world...



















## REVIEW

**I**n between everything, of course, was Daniels, which probably left him with one more spot than the evening really required — but which to lose? It was a toss-up between a wobbly bit of levitation (significantly, he only raised Debbie to any real height after he had sent

fame to an unnamed junior secretary whose sole achievement in life had been to defraud the credit card companies of some £10,000.

Meekly, the programme accepted her oft-repeated explanation that her motive had not been theft but putting one over on her boss in whose name the cards were taken out. Still, if it gets the head of the Community Programme Unit arrested (conspiracy to defraud, accessory after the fact, wasting our time) then it won't entirely have been in vain.

By contrast, what preceded it was outstanding. The new education system is a rich vein for documentaries and Lucy Sandys-Winsch's fly-on-the-classroom-wall look at the role of the school inspectors proved to be of the best. The *Inspection (BBC2)* followed inspectors as they made a week-long visit to the John Ellis Community College, a comprehensive school which by the admission

of its own headmistress is not exactly high in Leicestershire's exam league tables.

Skiffid and I dare say, slightly manipulative editing heightened the tension between the sharp-suited inspectors and the school's commonroom chic teachers. In this version of the world, male teachers responded with anger and confrontation while females favoured fear and tears — apart from one splendidly relaxed grand dame who simply dunked her biscuit in her morning coffee and pointed out that all she could do was her best so there was no point worrying.

**T**here proved to be no point in anyone worrying. Contrary to the school's darkest expectations, the standard of education at John Ellis was declared "sound". Sound, I now know, is a crucial word in modern education largon. The

equivalent perhaps of the all-encompassing B+.


The undoubted stars were Ler Trevor, the sociology teacher who railed magnificently but no doubt foolishly against a system he was ideologically opposed to, and Niko Chandler, the head of modern languages whose commitment was such that when she couldn't hire a replacement German teacher or she learnt the language herself. "Sound" did neither of them justice.

Last night was also time to bid au revoir to Delia Smith's Winter Collection (BBC2), which takes a curiously timed and lengthy Christmas break and returns in the new year. She celebrated with a lot of recitals that had hour-and-a-half gaps in them — "it leaves you time to sit back and do other things". The result, I fear, will be a lot of very sozzled hosts serving the main course at midnight. No chance there then.

CHANNEL

**The Ghostbusters of East Finchley**  
**BBC2, 9.00pm**

With the ITV series *Gone to the Dogs* and *Gone to the Sun*, Ted Turner Grounds staked out a promising niche as a writer of unconventional comedy. His new drama should more than confirm that reputation. A dramatist set on a north London council estate that includes among its characters John Lennon and Mother Teresa can hardly be accused of pandering to the expectations of the Grounds's heroes are Kevin (Paul Reynolds) and Jackie (Catherine Holman), two decidedly unclasslike, unglamorous young people who fall in love while investigating tax frauds. A shrewd piece of casting against type has the normally posh Jan Francine affecting a raucous working-class accent and trying her best to look dowdy as Kevin's exasperated mum.




**Revislonist portrait of the Duke of Windsor (C4, 8pm)**

**Secret Lives: Edward VIII**  
**Channel 4, 9.00pm**

The series which has previously challenged the reputations of Lord Mountbatten and Walt Disney turns its revisionist fire on the man who was briefly King in 1936. It's his life that's been the subject of

8.00am GMTV (5940245)  
9.25 Supermarket Sweep Quiz (s) (5206429)  
9.55 London Today. (Teletext) (3988662)  
10.00 The Time... the Place Discussion programme  
hosted by John Stapleton (s) (8823719)  
10.35 This Morning. Magazine show (72867581)  
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9521142)  
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News and weather (Teletext)  
(9634806)  
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (9546697)  
1.25 Emmerdale (r) (s) (89745005)  
1.55 A Country Practice (s) (82786500)  
2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (70015429)  
2.50 The Lady Killers (r) (Teletext) (2496871)  
3.20 News (Teletext) (8778857)  
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8777158)  
3.30 The Riddlers (5623952) 3.40 Wizards  
(5825413) 3.50 Astro Farm (Teletext) (s) (563496)  
4.05 Carfield and Friends (5883055) 4.  
Fantomcat (s) (5146142)

6.35pm **Heathcliff**. Cartoon series (t) (7860982)  
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (54413)  
9.00 **Evening Shade**. Small-town America comedy series (t) (52974)  
9.30 **Schools**. Middle English (4732345) 9.45 **The Mid-Programme** (7845051) 10.05 **Scientific Eye** 10.30 **Geographical Eye** (3540877) 10.45 **Le Petit Monde de Fifi** (4331072) 11.00 **Breaking the Mold** (8259068) 11.20 **Reviewing the Landscapes** (6857787) 11.30 **The Spanish Program** (4881413)  
12.00 **House To House**. Political magazine (69210)  
12.30pm **Sesame Street** (45871) 1.30 **The Wonder Years** (5259635) 1.55 **Playboy** 1.55 **Playboy Canadian animation** (88813351)  
2.00 **FILM: Johnny Eager** (1942, b/w) starring Robert Taylor, Lana Turner and Van Heflin A paranoiac, pretending to go straight, falls for the daughter of the lawyer who sent him to prison. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (1326)  
4.00 **Think Tank**. Team quiz. (Teletext) (s) (332)  
4.30 **Fifteen To One** (Teletext) (s) (516)  
5.00 **Ricki Lake**. Joe Clark, a black head teacher who cleaned up his school's drug problem, is the guru. (Teletext) (s) (4245531)  
5.45 **Terrytoons** (251143)  
6.00 **Home Improvement**. American comedy series starring Tim Allen (s) (581)  
6.30 **New Gamesmaster**. Computer and video game magazine (531)  
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext) (218992)  
7.50 **Four Fingers and a Thumb**. A dinner party that succeeds without conversation (s) (153448)  
8.00 **Hands Up**. The third of an eight-part educational magazine. (Teletext) (6974)



**Paul Reynolds and Catherine Holman (9.00pm)**

**9.00 [REDACTED] The Ghostbusters of East Finchley. (Celestax) (s) (4351)**

**9.30 The Young Ones (r). (Celestax) (77722)**

**10.00 [REDACTED] Doctors in the Dock. (Celestax) (s) (75871)**

**10.30 Newsnight. (Celestax) (770582) 11.15 Late Review (s) (641626) 11.55 Weather (471790)**

**12.00 Midnight Hour with Trevor Phillips. (s) (19369)**

**12.30am-5.00 The Learning Zone: Open University — Powers of the President (34340) 1.30 Global Firms in the Industrialising East (19982) 2.00 FETV Short Cuts (36833) 4.00 BBC Focus: The Science Archive and Royal Institution Discourse (82272) 5.30 RCN Nursing Update (10098)**

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode™**

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video sets. Tap on the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0208 181204 (tells cost 30p/min plus phone min, 4p/min ex. network) or write to VideoPlus+, Ardenholme Ltd, 6 Ivy House, Penetration View, London W91 3TN. VideoPlus+™ ("PlusCode" and Video Programmer) are trademarks of Genesis Development Ltd.

Andros. This is not a full biography. The glamorous young Prince who vowed that something must be done about unemployment does not appear. The emphasis is on Edward's Nazi sympathies and his central charge that he did not just a naive blondener but was prepared to betray his country. The accusation is not enough though it is given extra force through recently discovered documents. And when the historian of the fall of Donald Cameron West calls his behaviour "a case to treason" you are bound to take note.

**Sophie's Meat Course**  
Channel 4, 8.30pm

It's another cookery series you may groan, but Sophie Grigson can reasonably claim to be the best. Her food is delicious. Her concern is not only with what goes on the plate but also tracing dishes back to their source. This programme on pork, therefore, includes a visit to a pig farmer and a bacon curer, with the admirable purpose of showing how to distinguish between the real thing and any rubbish. Since it has been the subject of the pig that you eat all of it, it is a bit tongue-in-cheek. Grigson can offer a diverse spread of recipes: they run from traditional roast pork and crackling to a more up-to-date, Chinese-style, tenderloin served with a wonderfully rich sauce. Grigson's straightforward no-fuss style is a welcome garnish.

**Doctors in the Dock: Love in the Surgery**  
BBC2, 10.00pm (Stockland, 9.30pm)

Romeo Doctor struck off" yelled the tabloids, as the General Medical Council ended the career of David Corrien for having an affair with a woman patient. Cherie Fox was 20, half the doctor's age, when she first fell in love with him. Later she became his receptionist. Though it was some years before the relationship was exposed, Corrien was forced to resign. This time he divorced his second wife and her marriage was in trouble. Reflecting on his dismissal from his profession, Dr Corrien reckons he was badly done by. Cherie, who became his third wife and bore him three children, agrees. Pat Holland's film is hardly a defence of Corrien but that might be supposed. Peter Waverman

All aboard for the children's drama (4.40pm)

4.40 Wooff (Teletext) (s) (2805142)

5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (7806535)

5.40 ITN News and weather (254500)

5.55 Your Shout: Viewers air their views (168210)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (239)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (719)

7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (5784)

7.30 The Big Story. Director Murnaghan investigates an invisible army of CIA agents operating in the heart of Europe (s) (503)

8.00 The Bill: The Wee Small Hours. Marsh investigates the case of a disturbed widow who thinks she is being stalked. (Teletext) (8332)

8.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People. Amateur talent on parade. (Teletext) (s) (1239)

9.00 Tagger: Legends (Final Part). Scottish police trainee Martin Aschfield (Barbara Dickson), former football player with a pop group, is suspected murdering two members of the band. She certainly keen to cash in on the success of an o hit, but perhaps the murders are about nothing as mundane as money and have a more sinister significance. (Teletext) (s) (4413)

10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (79897)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (818887)

10.40 The Jagger (545968)

11.10 Big City. London events and entertainment (s) (191142)

11.40 Bagdad Cafe (s) (879158)

12.10 Green Cards (3062340)

12.15 War of the Worlds (3062342)

1.15 Shift (2803340) 2.05 The Beat (r) (s) (477874)

3.00 The Album Show (r) (s) (805661)

3.55 Profile (s) (17534494)

4.10 The Little Picture Show (r) (3388562)

5.00 Vanessa (r) (Teletext) (s) (88036)

5.30 ITN Newsline (241341). Ends at 6.00

**Sophie Grigson and Graham Portwine (R.30p)**

**8.30 Sophie's Secret Course: Po**  
(Teletext) (s) (2551)

**9.00 Sophie's Secret Lives: Edward VIII — t**  
Traitor Kings (Teletext) (2055)

**10.00 Jake's Progress.** The final episode of A Blessdale's black comedy/drama. Starring Rob Lindsay, Julie Walters and Lindsay Duncan (Teletext) (s) (729055)

**11.35 Get Up, Stand Up.** Sketches and stand-up comedy. (Teletext) (s) (878429)

**12.05am Four Fingers and a Thumb (r) (4082920)**

**12.10 Four-Matons: Secret Passions — Animati**  
Sinca Perestrolka. Clinic, Gagarin and A. Ego(2978727)

**12.50 Films: Ladies Of Leisure (1930, b/w) starrin**  
Barbara Stanwyck, Ralph Graves, Lowell Sherman and Marie Prevost. A young woman sets out to get wealthy young husband, but opts for his best friend when the family refuse to let him marry her. Directed by Frank Capra (457920)

**2.40 Four-Matons: Secret Passions — Pacific**  
followed by Breakfast on the Grass. Award-winning animation based on Manet (7238949)

**3.10 The Titting Ground. Music by Scott**  
instrumentalists (s) (s) (824727). Encore A Re

## SATELLITE

**For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision statement, published Saturday.**

**SKY ONE**

7:00am DJ M1 (9555) 8.00 Power Hour  
8:00am Jeopardy! (9570) 8.00 Court  
(1141) 8.30 Backstage (9179) 10:30 Court  
Intention (12358) 11:00 Sally Jessy  
Roth (12358) 11:30 The 100th  
Worship Woman (45142) 12:00 The Walt  
Disney World Special (8160) 3:00  
The 100th Anniversary Special (104500) 5:00 Gene  
Siskel (9600) 5:30 News  
Perspective (8897) 8:30 SportsCenter (2229) 9:00  
Police Story (57142) 9:30 The Crime  
Investigator (9014) 10:30 The  
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**SKY NEWS**

6:00am Sunrise (57575) 10:30 A  
Nightline (10088) 11:00 News and  
(42944) 1:00pm CBS News (7019) 2:00  
4:00 News and Business (21519) 5:00  
at Five (90055) 6:30m Tonight (56719) 8:00

[illegible]

**Steve McQueen stars in *Papillon***  
(Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

**THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL**

[illegible]

**Nancy Drew** (1332) 6.00 **John Doe** (2545) 6.00  
**You Are What** (3529) 6.00 **7.00 Fish** and  
 (4700) 7.30-8.00 **Nancy Drew** (5861)

**DISCOVERY**

4.00pm **Nature Watch** (4545) 5118 4.30  
 M6 (5371) 4.50 5.00 **Realm of the Dragon**  
 (5255) 5.00 5.30 **Reptiles** (5255) 5.30  
 Beyond 2000 (2335874) 7.00 **Wester**  
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 (5255) 8.00 8.30 **Science** (5255)  
 (5255) 8.30 9.00 **Arthur C. Clarke's**  
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**BRAVO**

12.00 **FLM: Cosmic Man** (5118)  
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**UK LIVING**

4.00pm **Agony Aunt** (754535) 7.00  
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(261517) 7.45 On the Wildside (27)  
7.30 Music Awards (46428) 8.00 V.J.  
(862858) 10.30 Europe Music A  
(862859) 10.30 Europe Music B  
Hls (85322) 1.00pm Music  
(15862) 2.00 3 On Trial (165851) 27  
2.30 The 1000th (57177) 12.00  
(9500) 3.00 Chromatic (141681) 27  
Hanging Out (3430428) 3.30 Daily  
Out (3430428) 3.30 Daily  
Out (3570238) 4.30 Dali Miti (2264  
Deaths (9110) 5.30 Hanging Out (1  
The Last Soul (57177) 12.00  
(2874) 7.30 Rock Awards (3993) 8.00  
Worried (87552) 8.30 News and Bu  
The Last Soul (57177) 12.00  
Music (828581) 10.30 Aeon Flux (1  
11.00 Music Awards (55238) 11.30  
Eut (55004) 12.30pm Music (4148)

**VH-1**

7.00pm Music Playlist (201326)  
Cafe Vn1 (720835) 12.00 Heart an  
The Last Soul (57177) 12.00  
2.00 Britney Force (127158) 3.00  
Music (2400328) 5.00 Neil Young (18  
7.00 Vn1 (720835) 8.00 Neil Young (18  
The Last Soul (57177) 12.00  
10.00 Vinyl Years (561236) 11.00  
Bridge (651535) 12.30pm O AW  
The Last Soul (57177) 12.00  
Dance, Please (57177) 12.00

**YES TV**

3:30-4:00	12.30am	ABC News (44974)	1	291
Tonight	H2104	2.30 Newsweek	3	292
Parliament	(21746)	4.30 CBS News (773)	1	293
3.50-6.00	ABC News (55562)			
<b>SKY MOVIES</b>				
10.00am	Father Hood (1993)	2	294	
12.00	Walk Like a Man (1967)	525		
2.00pm	A Whole for the Killing - Pre			
One (1981)	(62425)	4.00	Butler - C	
Guang (1992)	(45353)	6.00	Father Ho	
(1993)	(4088790)	7.40	US Top 10 (4441)	
8.00	Believed by Love (1983)	8338		
10.00	On Deadly Ground (1994)	7589		
11.45	Sacred of Deception (198			
(658413)	12.00am	Road Flower (198		

**EUROSPORT**

7.30am Equestrianism (#4284) 6.00 Ten  
36581) 6.30 Rally (8799) 10.00 Formula  
90719) 10.30 Football (5369) 12.30  
Euroton (6539) 1.00 Skating (6638)  
6.00 Truck Racing (7657) 9.00 Sk  
(7383516) 7.15 News (37056) 7.30 Sh  
(36142) 8.00 Football News (561214) 12.  
12.30am Eurosport News (97165)

**SKY SPORTS**

4.00pm Living World 5.40pm Kenneth Cope  
3.30 Kitz TV 5.45 General Hospital  
Entertainment 6.15pm Colin Dyer/Weekend  
Europe 6.45-7.00 Christian Music Television  
**SKY SOAP**  
7.00pm Guiding Light (1534158) 7.55 A Day  
World Turns (8876448) 8.50 Peyton Place  
(2757177) 9.20 Days of Our Lives (22888)  
10.10-11.00 Another World (1062210)  
**SKY TRAVEL**  
11.00pm Globetrotter (254986) 11.30pm  
Perfect (254987) 12.00 Discover your World  
5557887 (1-20)pm Restaurants (16898)

(7478210) 8.30 What a Carry On! (756955) 9.00 Minder (4586351) 10.00 Thro (20695616) 11.55 Classic Sport (253335) 12.20am Larry Henry (4884948) 1.00 Who (2091930) 1.20 FILM: Bless The H (3688588) 1.50 3.00 Shopping (5882555)

**TCC**

5.00am Casper (72974) 7.00 Pink P (50234) 7.30 Ready or Not (88571) Valley High (80616) 8.30 Casper (34734) 9.00 Debbie (3574535) 9.00 Tiny (589500) 10.00 Tiny Tm (616448) 2.30 Happy Saver Alter (7142) 3.00 Sonic (6330) 3.30 Pink Panther (2887) 4.00 Cath (2887)

Young and Restless (9120671)  
Mistralch (2360522) 12.30pm Eric  
(595255) 1.05 Kory (144515) 2.05  
Hour (545569) 3.05 Magic (604-  
4.00 Infatuation UK (4220142)  
Crossroads (8004715) 5.05 John's  
(7578857) 5.30 Bewitched (436308)  
 Esther (4392716) 5.30 Brookside (574  
7.05 Jerry Springer (3973051) 8.00 Y  
and Restless (5952235) 9.00 Film: Co  
(78300715) 11.35 Lole of the Office  
12.00 Entertainment Now

**FAMILY CHANNEL**

5.00pm Wonder Years (7832) 5.30  
 (7832) 5.30 C

7.00am Asian Morning (80856293)  
Love Stories (84317413) 10.00 FILM:  
Megh (49145897) 11.30 Suncr  
(12638351) 12.00 Deth Behal  
(4941429) 12.30pm India Post (2555  
1.00 FILM: Sapnon Ka Mela (274  
4.00 Zee Top Ten (16298974) 6.00 Zee  
(9416539) 5.30 Punjab Lot (2571  
4.00 Dilagi (2670404) 3.00 Zee a  
(2626221) 7.00 Newssearch (5932  
1.00 Calzados (2629886) 8.00  
(9411715) 8.30 Andaz (8327328)  
Kashyap Dhagay (9040471) 10.00 Ho  
Show (8459216) 10.30 Comm  
(6401806) 11.00 Ras Baras (1282  
11.30 12.00 Krishna (2627121)

**SKY MOVIES GOLD**

4.00pm The Glass Key (1942) (6177) 8.  
Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933) (67063) 8.  
Raggedy Man (1981) (66210) 10.  
Papillon (1973) (61922518) 12.40-3.10  
Classroom (1989) (64299801).

**THE MOVIE CHANNEL**

6.30pm Tarzan's Desert Mystery (1942)

(13155) 8.00 Cricket (1326245) 4.000  
Rugby (7326) 4.50 Tennis (8210) 1.0  
Wrestling (2719) 8.00 Sports Centre (95)  
6.30 Rugby Union (8059) 7.00 Tights (1)  
(332103) 7.55 Sports Centre (245413) 8  
Cricket (97054) 10.00 Centre (35808) 10  
Tights (42069) 11.30 Netball  
(70264) 12.30m Rugby (30123) 2  
Soccer (98727) 2.00-2.30 Centre (59123230)  
**SKY SPORTS 2**  
7.00pm Rugby (9823210) 5.00 Netball  
(9312155) 8.00-1.00pm Tennis (319035)

**THE HISTORY CHANNEL**

4.00am Our Century (2635448) 5.00 Hi-  
Alive (3387332) 6.00-7.00 Biography:  
Red Baron (1697983)

**THE SCI-FI CHANNEL**

1.00am Mysteries and Miracles (40136)  
1.30 Ray Bradbury (3086666) 2.00 F

**NICKLEDEON**

6.00am Garbage (7576784) 6.15 Gals  
(7571239) 6.30 Hero Turtles (47023)  
Batfink (9059574) 7.05 Hero Turtles  
(1447887) 7.45 Rugrats (244332) 8.15 D  
(333974) 8.45 The Ferals (3232329)  
Nick (9740351) 12.30pm Real Mone  
(78055) 1.00 Wishbone (24264) 1.30 M  
Max 2.00 Speed Racer (1773) 2.30 R  
Dog (7516) 3.00 Count Duckula (5581)  
Pet Shop (2001) 4.00 Fish and Chips (5  
4.30p Rugrats 5.00 Clarissa (5525)

phrases (5351) 7.00 Through the Key  
(2036)  
Daring 7.30 My Two Dads (1535)  
Buck of May (8596) 9.00  
Rendell (41332) 10.00 All Cried Up (54  
10.30 Neon Rider 11.30 Batman (29  
12.00 Tintin (38165) 12.30 Sex Concen  
(94542) 1.00 Zorro (80730) 1.30 Rhoda  
Neon Rider 3.30 Rhoda (29494) 3.30 Z  
(82095) 4.00 Wonder Years (86291) 4  
5.00 The Black Stallion (20123)

**MTV**

6.30am The Grind (38500) 7.00 3 Fro

**CARTOON NETWORK/TNT**  
Continuous cartoons from 5am to 11am, then TNT films as below.  
8.00pm *The Strawberry Blonde* (199065239) 11.00 *Pie Pits* (11357/1758) 12.40am *Village of Daughters* (1982) (86137543) 2.15-5.00 *The Shrike Boys* (1975) (44809820)

**CNN/QVC**  
CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC the home shopping channel.



## SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 1995

Pitch-watering confirms South Africa's intentions for first Test match

## England prepare for trial by pace

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN VERWOERDURG

THERE has been a phoney war, a game of bluff and bluster, dominating the build-up to the Test series that begins here in Pretoria this morning. It culminated yesterday in Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, reacting with suspicion and indignation to what he sees as the sinister preparation of the Centurion Park pitch.

Illingworth arrived at the ground in late morning wondering if the nets would be usable after a spectacular and prolonged storm the previous night. He was startled, therefore, to find that hose-pipes

## TEAMS

ENGLAND (capt: M A Atherton): A J Stewart, M R Hopes, G P Thompson, G A Hirst, R A Smith, R C Russell, D G Cook, D Gough, R A King, A C Fraser, D E Malcott, M C Loe.

SOUTH AFRICA (capt: A C Hudson): G Kirsten, W J Cronje, D J Ganga, J N Rhodes, B M Morkel, D J Richardson, S M Pollock, C R Matthews, A A Donald, B M Scholtz, C E Elton.

Umpires: C J Mitchell (South Africa) and S Verwoerd (South Africa).

had been out on the Test pitch, and that Hilbert Smith, the groundsman, planned to repeat the exercise after lunch. Illingworth's response was to delay naming the side fixed in his mind and, instead, to announce a squad of 13.

Privately, Illingworth remains confident that his best course is to include the left-arm spin of Richard Illingworth alongside Dominic Cork, Angus Fraser and Darren Gough. This will mean omitting Malcolm and Iltis. Publicly, he regretted that no such decisions could be made because he was "waiting for them to stop watering the pitch". His tone suggested that he did not think that the watering was an entirely impartial measure.



Raymond Illingworth, left, the England manager, and Atherton, the captain, inspect the Centurion Park pitch yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

"I presume they are a bit worried about it lasting the distance," he said, caustically. "When I saw the pitch yesterday, I thought it would definitely turn before the end of the match. It looks as though

the groundsman thought the same. Pitches here have been helping the spinners in four-day cricket and I imagine he is trying to avoid that so South Africa can play all their fast bowlers."

Here is the rub. South Africa's rigid strategy, at least for the first two Tests, is to seize the initiative with pace. They have advertised the fact, long and loud, and word has been spread that the pitches, at Centurion Park and at the Wanderers ground in two weeks, will encourage the policy. England were not convinced, and prepared to counter speed with subtlety — hence Raymond Illingworth's irritation at the late adjustment of conditions that had initially encouraged him.

Michael Atherton, the captain, was outwardly at odds with the manager's mood. Whereas Illingworth claimed that it was "unusually late to be watering a Test pitch", Atherton dismissed it as "not unusual at all". Looking relaxed, Atherton then endorsed the preference for a slow bowler in his side. "I very rarely like to go into a Test without a spinner, and unless there is an extraordinary change in conditions, we will play one," he said.

Atherton was also inclined to puncture the hype over the South Africa pace attack. "We have just had a whole summer of it against the West Indies, so it won't be anything new," he said, "and although the talk has been of the Tests

being played on lightning-quick pitches, I'm not sure that will be the case."

Although it is sensible of Atherton to play down such talk, there is no doubt that Allan Donald, the best fast

Cronje's mission ..... 44  
Pentest Pakistan ..... 44

bowler in the world, is the most persuasive factor justifying South Africa's position as odds-on favourites for the series. However, despite England's distressing habit of losing the early Tests on recent tours, and their lacklustre form in Kimberley last weekend, nobody should be discouraged from backing them

to win this opening game at the attractive odds of 5-1. South Africa have relied heavily on Donald and Fanie de Villiers over the past three years. De Villiers is already ruled out of this series by injury, and Donald remains quietly concerned over a groin spasm that he suffered last weekend. Should anything happen to him, England would be strong favourites to win here, but even with Donald fully fit, there are suspect areas to this South Africa side, notably in their top-order batting.

They are a one-dimensional team, the dependence of pace illustrated by the fact that Dave Richardson, their wicketkeeper, has 99 Test victims, of whom not one was

stumped, and by the selection as their best slow bowler of Clive Elste, whose five Test wickets have cost 71 runs each. Unless Elste plays today, which remains unlikely, it will also be hard work for the fast bowlers operating in intense heat.

For all that, South Africa's recent record commands respect. They have won five Tests in succession and, since their return to international cricket, have been beaten only five times in 23 games. Habitually, they have found someone to see them to a serviceable total. England have not always been so resourceful, and it is on how their batting fares against the South African heavy artillery that this series will rest.

Gordon's  
strength  
keeps hope  
intact  
for NemethFROM NICHOLAS HARLTON  
IN PONTE DE SOL

JUST when it looked as though England were heading for yet another failure in the European basketball championship, Nemeth's squad revived itself to gain a welcome 75-72 victory over Portugal here last night to retain a slim chance of making further progress from group B in the semi-final round.

The belated success — that they apparently did their best to relinquish from the free-throw line, where they missed 16 of 38 shots — came after defeats by Latvia, Estonia and Germany. With a visit to Russia in February next on the itinerary, the last thing Nemeth needed was another loss.

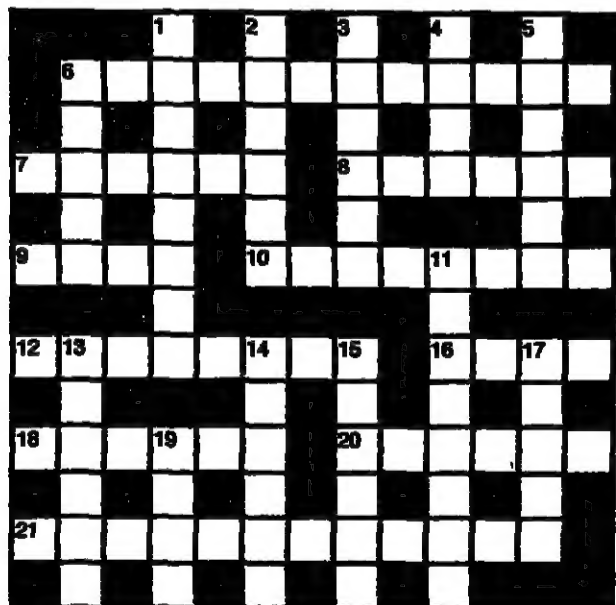
That looked the most likely prospect when England trailed 31-25 four minutes from the interval. It was then that they summoned their big resistance movement, bringing on the musclemen, including Trevor Gordon, in place of the speed merchants, such as Ronnie Baker.

The reshuffled defence caused an unlikely transformation. With a three-pointer on the half-time buzzer from Peter Scantlebury, their captain, who was celebrating his 100th international, England had transformed their six-point arrears into a six-point advantage. 38-32. The sequence then got better. England's rediscovered defensive intensity, aided by Gordon, Steve Bucknall, the top scorer, Andy Gardner, Roger Higgins and Neville Austin, who helped to widen the gap to 49-34.

Pedro Nuno began the inevitable Portuguese recovery, which was helped by Karl Brown and Bucknall needlessly conceding possession at vital moments. English nerves were jangling as the deficit was cut to six at 70-64 when Gordon fell on top of Nuno and was fouled out.

Jose Costa's last throw for Portugal flew in from three-point range but it was accompanied by the sound of the final buzzer signalling a reprieve for England.

"I knew the Portuguese would have a good outside shooting threat, so we defended intensively on the perimeter," Nemeth said. "The game was decided on physical strength."

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORDNo 628 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND

## ACROSS

- 6 Tudor song of false lady: its tune (12)  
7 Paltry, petty (leg dictionary) (6)  
8 Frisk like lamb (6)  
9 Raise: back (4)  
10 French soup, its vessel (3-2-3)  
12 (Greek) pillar carved as woman (8)  
16 Boy, (too) smart (4)  
18 Plaster for outside walls (6)  
20 Untouched (6)  
21 Pompous ass (7,5)

## DOWN

- 1 Position of danger (8)  
2 Part of foot (6); conforming (2,4)  
3 Little; a discourtesy (6)  
4 Seed; carrier of disease (4)  
5 Withdraw (ruling) (6)  
6 (Deceptive) appearance (5)  
11 Dauntless (8)  
13 Sharp-witted (6)  
14 Scooping, spreading tool (6)  
15 Think up; dispose of in will (6)  
17 Order from authority (5)  
19 Small restaurant (4)

## PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.  
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.  
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

## SOLUTION TO NO 627

ACROSS: 1 Delect 4 Hanger 8 Millstone 10 Clout 11 Rave 12 Cassette 14 Rock 'n' roll 18 Insomnia 20 Agar 22 Carol 23 Frogman 24 Sleaze 25 Crisis  
DOWN: 1 Demure 2 Palaver 3 Cash 5 Ancestor 6 Gloat 7 Rotten 9 Plaintiff 13 Schmalz 15 Legumes 16 Discus 17 Drones 19 Serve 21 Four

Players and  
officials  
in cup-tie  
'brawl'

BIRMINGHAM City were involved in an alleged dressing-room brawl after their Anglo-Italian Cup match in Ancona yesterday. The Ancona coach was reported to have been hurt in fighting between football players and officials. Massimo Cacciatori suffered a cut over his left eyebrow and a bruise, the ANSA news agency reported. He was treated in hospital.

The match, which Birmingham won 2-1, was marred by rough play and fights between players at the Conero Stadium in the central Italian port of Ancona. A group of home supporters hurled stones at a bus carrying Birmingham followers to the airport, but nobody was hurt, according to police.

Neil McDiarmid, the Birmingham physiotherapist, was thought to have been pushed as he tried to treat Paul Tait for a head injury. The proposed transfer of Tomas Brodin, the Sweden forward, from Parma to Leeds United collapsed at the last minute when the player failed to agree personal terms with the FA Carling Premiership club, Parma officials said yesterday. Gary Penrice, 31, has rejoined Watford, the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, from Queens Park Rangers in a £300,000 deal.

Torquay United, bottom of the third division, have named Eddie May as their new manager. May, 50, the former Cardiff City manager, replaces Don O'Riordan, who was dismissed after Torquay's 8-1 home defeat by Southampton United on October 28.

Pembroke saves  
wounded Wales

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARK PEMBRIDGE rescued Wales from a miserable start by claiming his second international goal as they ended their ill-starred European championship campaign with a gutsy 1-1 draw against Albania in Tirana yesterday.

With eight first-team regulars missing through injury, Wales had fallen behind after only four minutes, but dragged themselves back into the game with Pembroke, 24, the Sheffield Wednesday midfielder, leading from the front.

So it was fitting that it was Pembroke who was on hand to take advantage of a piece of brilliance by Ryan Giggs to head home just before the break and give Wales a hard-fought point.

Neil McDiarmid, the Birmingham physiotherapist, was thought to have been pushed as he tried to treat Paul Tait for a head injury. The proposed transfer of Tomas Brodin, the Sweden forward, from Parma to Leeds United collapsed at the last minute when the player failed to agree personal terms with the FA Carling Premiership club, Parma officials said yesterday. Gary Penrice, 31, has rejoined Watford, the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, from Queens Park Rangers in a £300,000 deal.

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Neville Southall had several escapes, with both his post and bar being struck, but, as the game wore on, Wales began to look the better balanced team. Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, was delighted as his patched-up side held on, with Gareth Taylor making his debut and Robbie Savage and John Robinson coming off the bench late on to earn their first caps. "We had an awful start and gave away an awful goal," Gould said. "They did get at us at the

start of the second half, but we've got to take a great deal of heart from the way we played. Everybody gave their best. Although I wanted to win, because I'm a winner, it's a sound result."

Inside the first minute, Neville Southall was beaten by a free kick from Pano which crashed against his upright: three minutes later, the Welsh were behind. It was the sort of return to the international arena that Eric Young could only have had nightmares about as he conceded the clearest of penalties.

The Wolverhampton Wanderers defender, back after a 20-month absence, allowed Sokol Kushta to nip past him and race into the box and his response was a scything foul.

Pembroke's equalising goal owed much to the quick thinking of Dean Saunders, who took a throw down the left, but even more to the genius of Giggs. The Manchester United forward raced into space before picking out a perfectly-timed run by Pembroke, who headed home confidently.

Pembroke was close again before the interval, but, at the start of the second period, Southall's goal came under severe pressure, and he could only look on as the best effort, an acrobatic volley by Rakki, the striker, thumped against the bar.

Wales should have gone in front from their first break of the half, but Giggs's left-foot shot screwed wide of the target. However, the opportunity at least proved that Wales could get something from the game and, in the final half-hour, they looked the more likely winners.

Germany  
suited by  
Moldavia's  
victory

GERMANY and Bulgaria, who were meeting last night to decide which of them would finish top of the European football championship qualifying group seven, had the pressure taken off them without having to kick a ball when results elsewhere ensured that both nations would reach the finals, to be held in England next summer.

Under the complicated qualifying procedure adopted by Uefa, the governing body of European football, Moldavia's 3-2 win over Georgia in Chisnau secured Germany's passage, even if they were beaten last night, while Bulgaria's place was assured by the 1-1 draw between Albania and Wales in Tirana.

Also through are Romania, whose 2-0 victory over Slovakia in Kosice yesterday ensured that they would finish top of group one. Gheorge Hagi and Dorinel Munteanu scored Romania's goals in the second half. Also in group one, Azerbaijan and Poland drew 0-0. The game was played in front of a sparse crowd in Trabzon, a Black Sea coastal town, after Uefa ordered that Azerbaijan play their home qualifying matches at a neutral venue because of civil unrest in the former Soviet republic.

Edmundo, the Flamengo and Brazil striker, has been suspended for 40 days for making an obscene gesture to supporters during a club match. The ban, to take immediate effect, will be largely symbolic, as Edmundo is expected to be out of action for the rest of the year with a broken toe.

EAU  
DE  
ROCHAS  
POUR  
HOMME

ROCHAS

501 من الامم